

TODAY

10P

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## THE PLEASURES OF HOUSEWORK

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Newcastle save a point at Wimbledon PAGE 29

TODAY

10P

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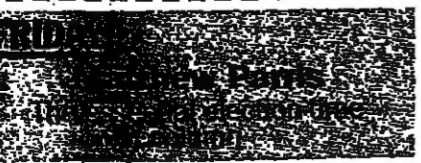
THURSDAY

Books for Easter



John Habgood on the Oxford Dictionary of World Religion

Karen Armstrong on James, brother of Jesus  
Plus: Last-minute travel bargains



FRIDAY



SATURDAY

Boy Wonder

Leonardo di Caprio - a Romeo for the MTV generation  
PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

# New Army code to end ban on gays

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY officers are drawing up a new code of moral conduct which would effectively remove the ban on homosexuals and change the current strict attitude towards adultery.

Senior Army officers rewriting the discipline and standards guidelines, which were last updated in 1993, believe it is no longer justified to treat individuals differently on the basis of their sexuality.

They want the Army Board to approve a new moral code under which only those individuals whose sexual activities can be shown to have a direct impact on a unit's operational effectiveness should face disciplinary action or administrative discharge.

"What we're talking about is sexual adventurism or overt sexuality, the kind of behaviour that can have a really bad effect on a unit," one Army source said.

Under the radical approach, gays and lesbians serving in the Army would not automatically face administrative discharge if exposed as homosexuals.

Although the proposed liberal code of conduct flies in the face of current Government policy, which still supports the ban on homosexuals, the new approach suggested by the senior Army officers is supported by top civil servants at the Ministry of Defence.

The change in attitude towards sexuality has been largely driven by the surge in legal cases involving homosexuals, lesbians and transsexuals who have been pursuing compensation claims in British and European courts.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said last week that a Labour government would lift the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

The senior civil servants believe the Armed Forces must prepare themselves for significant changes across the whole spectrum of personal and sexual behaviour to bring them more into line with the rest of society and ensure that they cannot be accused of any form of discrimination.

Apart from the "inevitable" lifting of the ban on homosexuality, they say the strict codes governing officers who commit adultery will also have to be changed, provided their actions do not interfere with operational effectiveness.

The Government's position on homosexuality is that it is incompatible with military life because of the close physical conditions in which servicemen and women have to work and live. It has

rigorously defended its policy in the High Court and Court of Appeal in a number of cases.

The Army's new moral code, expected to be completed before the end of the year, is likely to be far less prescriptive than the 1993 code, adopting a more sympathetic position on sexual orientation yet emphasising the importance of maintaining combat unity.

The 1993 code states that "anyone who admits to, displays the orientation of, or indulges in homosexuality, will be required to resign or be discharged". It also states that adultery, whether committed within the military community or outside, "is likely to prejudice the position of an individual and may bring the Army into disrepute".

General Sir Roger Wheeler, the new Chief of the General Staff, is known to be a pragmatic commander who is likely to give his approval to a more modern attitude towards sexual behaviour, although he has not yet sanctioned the radical stance being adopted by some of his senior officers.

Despite the belief at the top of the MoD civil service that changes in policy on homosexuality, adultery and other forms of sexual conduct are inevitable for all three Services, strong resistance remains in some parts of the ministry.

Royal Navy chiefs, in particular, are opposed to lifting the ban on homosexuality because they believe that in the close confines of a warship or submarine, the presence of known homosexuals would undermine morale and destroy operational effectiveness.

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, has made his position clear to ministers and his staff: he is adamantly opposed to any lifting of the ban on homosexuals. One Navy source said: "Some people believe that because of all the court cases, there will have to be a change in the present position, but this is not the view of the First Sea Lord. He thinks the MoD should fight these issues all the way, even through to the European courts."

However, unlike the Army's present position on adultery, the Navy takes no action or interest in any relationship that takes place ashore when individuals are off duty. The Navy source said: "That's an entirely private matter. All we are worried about is what happens on board ship or at a naval establishment."

Lesbian investigator, page 2



Pete Goss and his wife, Tracey, embracing after he landed at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Biscay coast yesterday

## French welcome British sea hero

FROM EDWARD GORMAN  
IN LES SABLES D'OLONNE

FRANCE took Pete Goss to its heart yesterday when the British yachtsman finished his epic solo round-the-world voyage and was welcomed by more than a hundred thousand people on a glorious spring afternoon.

Goss, 35, who finished in fifth place in the Vendée Globe and is the fastest Briton to sail round the world singlehanded with a time of 126 days and 21 hours, was overwhelmed by his reception at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Biscay coast. He was greeted by Raphael Dinelli, the French sailor whose life he saved

in the Southern Ocean after his boat capsized. Goss is to receive the Légion d'honneur for his heroism.

"It's impossible really," he said. "I've been in solitary confinement for four and a half months and I've just bounced back into humanity. It's extraordinary - I feel very, very emotional and I am very privileged."

As his 50ft yellow-hulled yacht *Aqua Quorum* was shepherded slowly into the harbour by a flotilla of spectator boats, Goss stood on the foredeck waving at the people standing up to 20 rows deep on the harbour walls to applaud him.

The self-effacing Cornishman, who sold his house and ran up debts of more than

£100,000 to take part in the race, could only mouth "this is just amazing," amid the din of boat horns, cheers, whistles and clapping.

When *Aqua Quorum* finally made it to the dock, Goss's wife, Tracey, was the first on board, enveloping him in hugs and kisses. Then came Philippe Jeantot, the race organiser, who has called Goss "the true hero of the Vendée Globe," and then his father Michael and mother Sally.

Next was Raphael Dinelli, whose life Goss saved in the Southern Ocean at Christmas when he turned *Aqua Quorum* into 70-knot winds and appalling seas to find the stricken

Continued on page 2, col 7

## More Hamas suicide attacks threatened

TENSION in the Middle East increased yesterday as violence continued in various parts of the occupied West Bank and Hamas threatened to launch more suicide attacks against Israeli targets.

Four people, including the bomber, were killed in a crowded Tel Aviv café last week.

Hamas said Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, would not be able to crack down on its activities because it had an organisational structure in place and was ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under his control.

Talks revived, page 10



"They're all the same"

## Hamilton 'accepted up to £60,000'

Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods who triggered the cash-for-questions controversy, lost track of payments he made to MPs but claims that Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000.

According to transcripts obtained by *The Times* the Egyptian-born businessman admitted to Sir Gordon Downey that he grossly underestimated the amount he paid to Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield. Page 4

The involvement of Mr Turner in the business manifesto preparation has added to suspicions among some union leaders that they are being sidelined, and that Mr Blair, rather than treating both sides of industry equally, is currently leaning towards the employers.

Labour sources admitted that with the CBI being a key player in the business and government working group on the British

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Blair's CBI snub to unions

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR and Gordon Brown yesterday stepped up Labour's efforts to woo business by promising a seat for the CBI on a high-level committee set up to prepare for Britain's presidency of the European Union in 1998.

In what will be seen as a further snub to the unions, Blair Turner, director general of the CBI, has been invited to serve on a special group that will plan ways of forcing the EU to open up more of its markets. Labour sources said that the unions would not be asked to serve on the committee.

The Shadow Chancellor hardened up his pre-election tax pledges by reaffirming to middle

and higher income earners that a Labour government would not raise the ceiling on national insurance contributions, the plan felt to have contributed severely to Labour's defeat in 1992.

The move came as it was disclosed that Mr Turner had been consulted on the contents of a separate manifesto, to be released alongside the main party manifesto, which will be aimed at winning the support of Britain's bosses.

Mr Brown also made plain that not all privatised utilities would pay Labour's proposed windfall tax. He said that while all the utility companies sold off by the Tories would be "eligible" for the tax, if they had not made excess profits they would not be liable. Mr Brown's remarks added to

speculation that the electricity and water companies will bear the brunt of the tax, while British Telecom will escape.

Kenneth Clarke will hit back at Labour's claims to be the party of business in interviews and at a press conference today.

The involvement of Mr Turner in the business manifesto preparation has added to suspicions among some union leaders that they are being sidelined, and that Mr Blair, rather than treating both sides of industry equally, is currently leaning towards the employers.

Labour sources admitted that with the CBI being a key player in the business and government working group on the British

Continued on page 2, col 5

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British nominees suffer big-night nerves at thought of saying thank you in front of 2 billion people

# Unknown faces bask in Oscar night limelight

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CINEMA history has been made by a little-known woman whose work has probably been heard by millions. Rachel Portman is the first female composer to be nominated for an Oscar.

She is one of 31 Britons to be nominated for the awards, which will be announced at the annual ceremony tonight. She was chosen for the music she wrote for *Emma*. Her score was inspired by folk music and aimed to support the dialogue "without telling everyone when to laugh". Her other credits include Steve Barron's *Pinocchio*, Norman Jewison's romantic comedy *Only You* and numerous television dramas.

The number of Britons nominated for Oscars this year has almost doubled since 1996. Out of 24 categories, Britons have a starring role in 18 of them.

Portman, 36, from Haslemere, Surrey, nominated for best original musical or comedy score, began composing at

the age of 14. She turned to film when her tutor at Oxford warned her that she would not make it as a "serious" classical composer because her music was too melodic.

Her career began when she wrote a score for a film called *Privileged*, about Oxford students and made entirely by its subjects, which was sold to the BBC. It starred Hugh Grant, Imogen Stubbs and James Wilby. She sent a tape to Alan Parker, who passed it to Sir David Puttnam, who asked Portman to rescore a Channel 4 film, *Experience Preferred But Not Essential*.

"I don't feel I'm a female composer, just a composer," Portman said. Every film she takes on requires a different compositional style. Yet, she believes that her personality emerges through each one, "in the way I shape melodies, probably also the harmonies I lean towards".

Other unsung heroes of British cinema have also flown into Los Angeles, intent

on having a good time. Among the craftsmen joining the Oscar party circuit for the first time are Tim Harvey, the production designer of Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, which is up for four awards. "It feels unreal, not the sort of thing that happens to me," he said.

Also nominated for their work on *Hamlet* are Patrick Doyle for original dramatic score and Alexandra Byrne for costume design. Byrne said that choosing an outfit for the ceremony had been "a nightmare". Asked why she had not made something special herself, she explained that she cannot sew. She trained as an architect and did a post-graduate theatre design course. "I gradually made the crossover".

Stuart Craig, production designer on *The English Patient* (nominated for the art direction award) has been nominated five times before, winning for *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Gandhi*. Even so, he described the ceremony as nerve-racking.

"It's a hugely publicised television show," he said. "If you are a backroom boy, you're not used to that. If you win, you're talking to 2 billion people around the world. I'm not sure I want to talk to 2 billion people."

But one person who will not be going to the party — although his work has been indirectly recognised with a nomination — is Ivan Sharrack, the production sound mixer on *The English Patient*. He worked on only the last third of the film, and the man who worked on the other two thirds then had to hand over because of other work commitments — Chris Newman, an American — will be going instead. Sharrack said yesterday: "It's a little hard, but there are no sour grapes. I already have won an Oscar, for *The Last Emperor*, and a BAFTA, for *The French Lieutenant's Woman*."

Rachel Portman, nominated for her score for *Emma*. She began composing for films after being told she would never be a serious composer.

## Tea at the beach for foreign invasion force

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES AND GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S Oscar nominees rolled down to the beach in a convoy of limousines on Saturday to soothe their nerves with tea and scones before tonight's prize-giving ritual turns them into winners and runners-up.

In a cavernous ballroom yards from the sands of Santa Monica, Kristin Scott Thomas, who has been nominated as best actress for her performance in *The English Patient*, made quiet conversation. Marianne Jean-Baptiste, nominated as best supporting actress for her role in *Secrets and Lies*, disclosed that she had borrowed diamonds to deck herself out for the ceremony, and the director Anthony Minghella patted everyone on the back for a British invasion of Hollywood.

"It feels as if the lunatics have taken over the asylum," said Minghella, hot favourite

to be named best director for his *The English Patient*. Low-budget independent films have swamped the big studios, with four out of five nominees for the award for best picture being made without the help of Tinseltown.

Ralph Fiennes, one of *The English Patient*'s 12 nominees, was a notable absentee from Bafta's annual pre-Oscar tea party, held at a hotel decorated in appropriately colonial style but sponsored by an American airline. The actor's co-star was a guest of honour. "I always ignored the fact that the cinema is a big, nasty industry," Scott Thomas said, dressing down in sandals and plain beige trousers.

"Now I've been thrown into an arena I never really recognised — but at least my market-value has gone up," Scott Thomas may be up



Jean-Baptiste, named for supporting role

against four rivals for the title of best actress, but in the fashion world, hers is the only name that counts.

The British star is the worn-an every international designers wants to dress. Fashion shows are one thing, but endorsement from a film-star at the Oscars carries more weight. Scott Thomas — tall, chic, talented, tasteful — is

their ideal clothes horse. "Everyone wanted to dress her," confirms her publicist, adding tantalisingly: "It's going to be a French designer."

But which one? Scott Thomas, who lives in Paris, appears to have visited every couture house in the city. When she appeared in the front row of John Galiano's show for Christian Dior, the deal seemed signed and sealed.

Not so, reveals a Dior spokeswoman. It is a similar story at Givenchy and Chanel.

The obvious contenders having ruled themselves — unless this is a case of elaborate double-bluff — attention turns to less likely candidates. Scott Thomas wore one of Christian Lacroix's creations for a *Vanity Fair* shoot last year. Could he be in with a chance? "We know she has tried some Lacroix dresses," said a spokeswoman. "But she has also gone to all the other couture houses." In the meantime, Brenda

Blethyn, who has been nominated as best actress for her role in *Secrets and Lies*, has plumped for Armani, for her Oscars outfit, — as has half of Hollywood. Emily Watson, who has been nominated for the same award, for *Breaking The Waves*, will wear a dress by the British designer Amanda Wakeley. Jean-Baptiste will be wearing a Gianni Versace dress.

One Briton whose head has definitely not been turned by Hollywood, despite the growing admiration for his work from aspiring directors there, is Mike Leigh, whose *Secrets and Lies* has been nominated as best picture. As is customary with Leigh, who has been nominated as best director, the film was created entirely through improvisation. "I have no plans to move here or work here," Leigh said.

"There are a thousand places I would rather make a film about than Los Angeles."

Alexandra Byrne with Kate Winslet on the set of *Hamlet*

## Cab driver has a fare night out in Paris

BY ADAM FRESKO

A TAXI driver waiting on the rank at Heathrow Airport picked up the fare of a lifetime when a businessman ran out saying he had missed his flight to Paris.

Dave Coombs, 41, from Romford, east London, knew that at 9.30pm the man did not have time to catch the last Eurostar or coach from Victoria, so he offered to take him to Dover. "The man was worried that there wouldn't be transport at the other end and asked me to take him all the way to Paris," he said.

"It's a job you dream about, but I had no idea how much it would cost. I asked some guys on the radio. Some were saying £500 or £600 if it was on the meter, which was too expensive for him. In the end I settled for £300 and he paid all the travelling expenses."

"I phoned my wife and told her to get my passport ready. When I got home I offered him something to eat but he just stayed in the cab. It was a round trip of 580 miles, but it was good fun. He got to his important meeting and I got a nice evening out."

## Boy stowaway found dead in jet from Kenya

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE body of a boy was found in the wheel bay of a British Airways jumbo jet after it landed at Gatwick yesterday. Ground crew discovered the boy, aged between eight and 12, in an aircraft that had arrived from Nairobi.

He is believed to have frozen or suffocated to death as the plane flew at temperatures as low as -60F and an altitude of 32,000ft. Police searched beneath the flightpath for other stowaways who might have been accompanying the boy.

It is believed that the child clambered aboard the aircraft minutes before take-off from Nairobi and was trapped in the nosewheel bay before landing when the hydraulic system for lowering the wheels caught him by the legs. He suffered no apparent injuries. He was certified dead at the scene and a post-mortem examination is to be held.

Inspector Peter Cooper, of Sussex Police, said: "One can only guess at what spurred him into doing something so dangerous."

A spokesman for Surrey ambulance service said: "This looks like a tragic case of

misadventure. At the cruising altitude of this aircraft, the temperature could be as low as -60F and the oxygen level would be insufficient to sustain life."

The spokesman said that the emergency services had suspected that the boy had been accompanied because he was so young.

"It would be quite unusual for a boy of eight to stow away and fly to Britain on his own. It is likely there were others with him, possibly older children, and the fear is that they have fallen from the plane during its flight."

Last October two brothers stowed away in the wheel bay of a jumbo jet on a ten-hour journey from Delhi to London. Pardeep Saini was able to cling to the wheel as the plane landed at Heathrow, but his brother, Vijay, 18, died after falling out over Richmond, southwest London.

A spokeswoman for British Airways said that an investigation had been launched into the boy's death. "Safety is paramount to British Airways and we take this incident very seriously," she said.

## Pilot is grounded in drink alarm

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PILOT who allegedly flew an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol is being investigated after being ordered to land by alarmed air traffic controllers.

The 63-year-old pilot was escorted from the four-seater plane at Southampton airport after an erratic landing in which he was said to have swerved off the runway and almost hit a fence.

The man refused to give a breath test to police, but was seen by a police surgeon who confirmed that he had been drinking. His keys were confiscated and he was released pending an inquiry by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The man, from Denham, Buckinghamshire, had been flying to Jersey when he strayed into London air space on Friday. Air traffic controllers at Heathrow contacted the aircraft, but were concerned with the response they received from the pilot. A CAA spokesman said: "We are looking into it." The man could be charged with endangering aircraft or with endangering people on the ground.

## Duchess's home on market for £3m

BY KATHERINE BERGIN

THE six-bedroom former home of Sarah, Duchess of York, goes on the market today for £3 million, or nearest offer.

Unable to afford the monthly rent of £6,000 for the house, Kingsbourne, on the Wentworth estate in Sunningdale, she has returned to her former marital home near by with the Duke of York.

The duchess removed all her personal effects in a pantechon two weeks ago, but signs of the family linger. Lady and Barclay, her two dalmatians, are still at Kingsbourne, as are their feeding bowls.

The house where the duchess confided in Ruby Wax last



Six-bedroom Kingsbourne is in need of some renovation

year has hundreds of nail holes bearing witness to the countless photographs she put on the walls.

On the first floor, the duchess had a three-room suite with bedroom, dressing room and bathroom. Centrepiece of

her boudoir was a divan bed made by the London Bedding Centre of Sloane Street. The labels on the drawers have gone, but the wardrobes still appear to bear the marks of the duchess's categorisation system. The bathroom was

remodelled by the duchess in black and white, with a huge shower and tricorn bath. This is where she kept her vast collection of essential oils and bath products.

The children's room are painted in yellow and white checks, although the whole house is in need of renovation. The paint is flaking from the window sills in the duchess's bedroom. The 12-acre garden where she played tennis and swam with her daughters is likely to be one of the main attractions for buyers.

There is one other reminder of the duchess which will have to be dealt with before the agents Hamptons and Knight Frank can close the sale — the stack of her post which waits in the hall.

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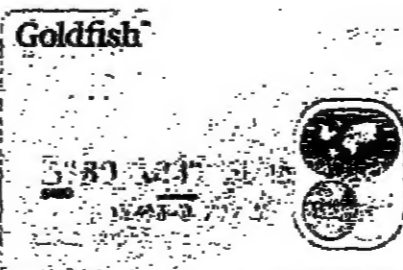
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# Disagreement on format puts TV debate in jeopardy



By PHILIP WEBSTER  
AND CAROL MIDDLEY

THE much-heralded election debate between John Major and Tony Blair was in the balance last night after the Conservatives accepted the format proposed by the broadcasters but Labour hardened their objections to it.

The Labour leadership made plain that in today's negotiations between the parties and the BBC and ITV it would insist on audience participation in the debate. However Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said that Labour wanted to pull the plug because it feared that Mr Blair

would crack under tough questioning. There were strong signs last night that Lord Irvine of Lairg, Mr Blair's negotiator, would take a tough line in today's talks. Apart from saying the audience should be allowed to question the leaders, he will also back the right of Paddy Ashdown to an equal hearing, putting another obstacle in the way.

Although Labour says it wants a debate, it sees no reason in giving it to the Conservatives on their terms. Labour believes that Mr Major is pressing for the confrontation now as a desperate measure to try to bite into the Labour lead. It believes that with Mr Major trailing so far behind in the polls, a draw would be

a good result for him in the debate and sees no reason why Mr Blair or Mr Ashdown should bend over to accept the Conservative rules of engagement.

There is also irritation at the broadcasters for accepting the broad Conservative terms in their eagerness to stage what would be an historic electoral event. But Dr Mawhinney said yesterday that the Conservatives had accepted the "fundamental principles" of proposals from the broadcasters.

He said: "So far as we are concerned there is no reason for the debate now not to go ahead." Dr Mawhinney said the broadcasters agreed the main focus should be

head-to-head debate between the two main leaders, that it should be of sufficient length to be a true test and that Mr Ashdown should be included on a "fair basis". The debate should be conducted with dignity and not descend to a "bear-pit atmosphere".

Although Dr Mawhinney's statement did not say it, the Times will today argue for two 90-minute debates. They accept there should be an audience in the studio but that there should not be audience participation.

There were also signs yesterday that the BBC is losing patience. Senior BBC executives feared that the broadcasters were being used as

pawns in a point-scoring match between Labour and the Tories and had considered calling off negotiations. Labour's announcement last week that it wanted audience participation in the debate was regarded as another late attempt to move the goalposts, despite the fact that discussions about a possible debate have been taking place since January.

A source said: "The formats will have to be finalised by Thursday of this week to have a fighting chance of going ahead. After Thursday we are into Easter."

The debates are provisionally scheduled for April 13, 20, or 27. That means the first debate will

happen two weeks after Easter Sunday. For this to happen everything must be agreed and finalised by this week otherwise it becomes impossible to organise things in time.

Today representatives of the three parties will meet Marion Bowman, deputy controller of factual programmes for the ITV Network.

There are also plans for a meeting with Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs at the BBC. Michael Dobbs, the thriller writer and former Tory party deputy chairman, will represent Mr Major. Mr Ashdown has appointed Lord Holmes of Cheltenham as his negotiator.

## Al Fayed kept no record of alleged payments to MPs

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE businessman Mohamed Al Fayed, who triggered the cash-for-questions controversy, kept no record of his payments to MPs but claims that Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000.

It emerged yesterday that in his evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary standards commissioner who is investigating the affair, Mr Al Fayed appears to have grossly underestimated the amount he paid to Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield.

Transcripts obtained by *The Times* of Mr Al Fayed's evidence to the Downey inquiry disclose that he did not keep records of his alleged cash payments to MPs. Challenged directly by the inquiry about the amount of money he gave MPs, he replied: "It is really difficult to remember this. Hamilton maybe took £40,000, £50,000 or £60,000. Smith maybe about £10,000."

Mr Smith, who resigned as Northern Ireland Minister in October 1994, ten days after the Prime Minister was told about the undeclared transactions, has told Sir Gordon that he received between £18,000 and £25,000.

Mr Al Fayed bitterly criticised Mr Smith and Mr Hamilton, MP for Tatton, who were endorsed as election candidates by their Conservative associations at the weekend. He told Sir Gordon: "People like that have no dignity, no honour; they will sell their mothers for money."

The new disclosures came as the Government voiced hopes that the sleaze controversy would subside. One Tory MP, Richard Shepherd, backed calls for Parliament to be recalled to enable the Downey report to be considered. But there were signs that Labour, as well as Tory lead-

ers, was trying to move attention to campaign issues. One Labour source said that sleaze had overshadowed several topics the party had hoped to highlight last week.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday he would be happy for Mr Hamilton and Mr Smith to visit his constituency during the campaign, adding: "I would go to both of their constituencies and campaign for them, because in Britain we have a rather quaint idea of justice: you're innocent until you're proved guilty."

Alison Foster, a trainee solicitor who told a Sunday



Foster: question over her legal future

newspaper that she had put cash for Mr Hamilton into envelopes while a personal assistant to Mr Al Fayed, may face questions about her future career in the legal world. Mr Hamilton, in a submission to Sir Gordon, has asked whether she is suitable to be a solicitor having admitted taking part "in illicit activities".

In his evidence to Sir Gordon, Mr Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, is also highly critical of Sir Andrew Bowden, the MP for Brighton Kemp-

town, to whom he was introduced by the lobbyist Ian Greer. Sir Andrew is being investigated by Sir Gordon after admitting receiving £5,300 from Mr Greer for his constituency fighting fund. He has denied being paid £5,000 by Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Al Fayed maintained that he had given the money to Sir Andrew, and that the MP had telephoned the day next day to increase his demand. The relationship was ended.

Mr Al Fayed, who recruited Mr Greer to help him to overturn a report by the Department of Trade and Industry into his takeover of Harrods, which had called him a liar and a cheat, told the Downey inquiry that he felt "disgust" that MPs were prepared to accept financial inducements to do his bidding.

But under cross-examination he was unable to match the date of the alleged payment to Mr Hamilton with questions the MP had asked about the House of Fraser in the Commons. He was also questioned about the introduction of crucial new witnesses on the eve of the libel trial against *The Guardian* in September 1996, two years after the newspaper had published its original cash-for-questions allegations. Having always maintained he had paid the MPs himself, or through Mr Greer, he claimed days before the trial was due to begin that his secretaries, Ms Foster and Iris Bond, had "stuffed envelopes full of cash". Mr Al Fayed told Sir Gordon: "I am 64. Your memory goes and you cannot remember everything." But he insisted that he had not confused payments to Mr Hamilton, who has denied receiving money from him: "How, if I gave him the money with my own hands?"



Tony Blair talked to more than 100 of his party's prospective parliamentary candidates in marginal seats on a conference telephone link from his home in Islington, north London, yesterday. "We are doing well, but it

is important that we are never complacent, that we continue to persuade people of the case not just against the Conservatives but for today's Labour Party," he said. The exercise will be repeated several times.

## Women ignored by all parties, study says

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE three main political parties are ignoring the views of women, according to a report published today.

Politicians are failing to address the specific concerns of women, as well as refusing to take on board their opinions on mainstream issues. The conclusion comes in a report called *What Women Want on Politics* in which the views of almost 10,000 women are compared to policies.

With 15 million more women voters than men, the authors claim that women could have a key impact on the general election on May 1. The report, carried out by the Women's Communication Centre, a campaign group formed two years ago to promote female perspectives on political debate, says that key women's issues are sidelined by the parties. They include decent childcare measures, domestic violence, part-time workers' rights, low and equal pay, support for carers, breast cancer research, removing VAT on sanitary protection.

At the same time, the report says, women's views on mainstream issues are ignored. For example, while the parties concentrate on combating unemployment, women are more concerned with equal pay, access to pensions, flexible hours and parental leave. On Europe, women are more concerned with social rights and protection than a single currency or sovereignty.

The report also finds that women are more prepared to accept higher taxes to fund extra education, health and pensions than their male counterparts. The report is being sent to all sitting MPs and prospective candidates in marginal seats.

Almost one in three women have not yet decided how to vote, according to a MORI poll.

## Veteran MPs not to stand

Labour Party chiefs are to draw up shortlists of potential candidates to replace two veteran MPs who have announced their retirement.

Doug Hoyle, 67, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said he would not contest Warrington North, where he has a majority of 12,622. Norman Hogg, 59, a former deputy chief whip, said he would not fight Cumberland and Kilsyth, where he has a 9,215 majority.

Bryan Davies, Labour's higher education spokesman, and Mike Watson — whose constituencies are disappearing — are frontrunners for the two seats.

## Labour signs football clubs

Labour will unveil plans today to set up homework centres at Premiership football clubs to help to raise children's literacy standards. Pupils who are having trouble in class will be encouraged to do their homework at the clubs after school before playing a game of football. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, will say, Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United and Arsenal have joined the scheme and will help to set up pilot study support centres.

## Muslims urged to take part

A leading Muslim body has condemned Islamic extremists who have called on the Muslim community to take no part in the election. The Muslim College, headed by Dr Zaki Badawi, a well-known moderate, has advised that all Muslims should take part. "Taking part is a religious as well as a civic duty," the college says in a document published today. "The consequences will affect all of us and to remain aloof can be regarded as a lack of concern for the community."

## PM's wife fears ignominious exit

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

NORMA MAJOR called yesterday for an end to the "ignominious" tradition under which an ousted Prime Minister is forced to leave Downing Street within hours of his defeat at the polls.

While she insisted that John Major was going to win the election, the Prime Minister's wife said any departing leader should be able to leave with dignity. Unlike other world leaders, British Prime Ministers are hustled out of their offices on the day they lose the election. If Labour wins in the early hours of May 2, Mr Major would be likely to deliver his resignation to the Queen in the morning and be out of Downing Street by early

afternoon. The speed of departure has led to embarrassing moments for men who until hours before were running the country. Sir Edward Heath was left homeless in 1974 and forced to live in an aide's flat for several months. Harold Wilson was reduced to sneaking his possessions out the back of Downing Street in 1970.

In the United States, ousted Presidents have several months between their defeat and their successors' installation. In Canada and New Zealand, Prime Ministers have about a week to pack their bags.

In a newspaper interview Mrs Major said she believed the Tories would win. But she expressed concern at the way Prime Ministers were removed. "One is hustled out rather ignominiously, which

I think is shameful," she said. "I don't think that any incoming Prime Minister actually would expect the outgoing Prime Minister to disappear by lunchtime the next day."

She added: "I think someone should take a grip of the situation. I mean no outgoing Prime Minister is going to want to cling on. You want to make a fairly smart move. But one should be able to do it with dignity."

An explanation emerged yesterday for Mrs Major's downbeat appearance during the early days of the election campaign. She has been spending time looking after her mother, who is suffering from cancer. In her interview she said: "She has cancer but we think she is on the mend."

## Tories may lose Fleet Street allies

By CAROL MIDDLEY



Rothermere spoke of *Mail's* independence

JOHN MAJOR suffered another setback yesterday when it was reported that Associated Newspapers had tempered its traditionally staunch support for the Tory party.

Lord Rothermere, chairman of the group that publishes the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the *London Evening Standard*, was quoted as saying: "I don't think we will actually endorse anybody. I don't believe in newspapers supporting parties. The proper duty is to report what happens. The *Daily Mail* is

independent. It has always embraced the policy of the Tories because the policy of the Labour Party was not acceptable." Lord Rothermere told the *Independent* on Sunday, adding that this time, however, "we have two political parties with policies not terribly different, the difference being the question of credibility."

Only the opposition of the *Daily Mail's* Editor, Paul Dacre, was said to have stopped the paper backing Mr Blair. He is said to have argued that this would anger diehard Tory readers. The

*Evening Standard* might support Labour, Lord Rothermere hinted.

Last night, Peter Wright, the deputy editor of the *Daily Mail*, said that his newspaper "will be reporting the campaigns of all the parties with its usual vigour. Only when we have a full picture of what the parties have to offer will we consider offering our readers advice on voting preferences."

Last week Mr Major lost another former ally, *The Sun*, which declared on the front page its conversion to Mr Blair's new Labour.

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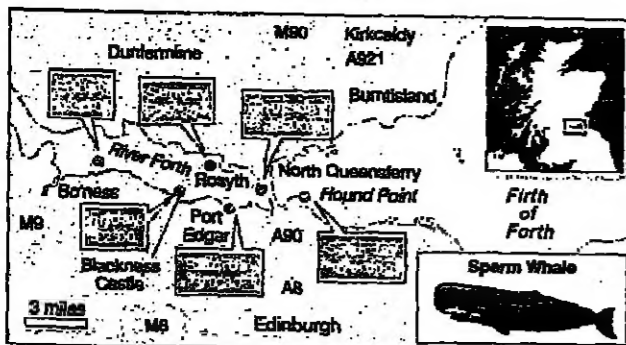
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# Fate of stranded whale hinges on high tide



By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THOUSANDS of sightseers armed with binoculars, cameras and telescopes lined both banks of the River Forth yesterday to watch a flotilla of boats attempt to shepherd a 40ft sperm whale to the safety of the deep ocean.

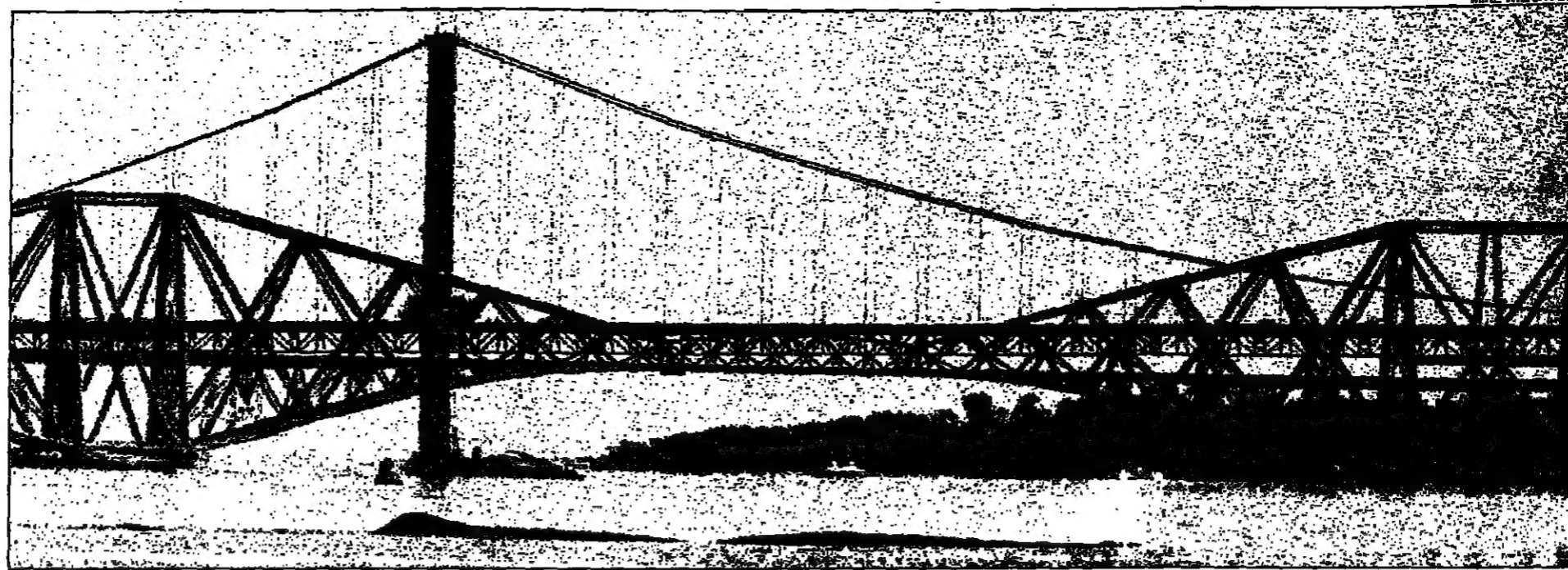
There was a carnival atmosphere in North and South Queensferry as hundreds of sightseers from all over Scotland caught a glimpse of the first sperm whale in the Forth for 20 years.

In the river, which was calm in the bright March sunshine, a mammoth operation involving 11 boats, the Ministry of Defence, Force Navigation, British Petroleum, the Coastguard, the Forth Road and Railbridge Operators and the police was underway to pre-

vent the whale beaching on the banks of the Forth.

The rescue attempt was masterminded by Deep Sea World, the marine centre and aquarium based on the banks of the Forth at North Queensferry. Divers and marine biologists at the centre were optimistic that with the help of the strong spring tide they could force the 40-ton whale out to the relative safety of the North Sea. But they will not know for certain until today whether they have been successful.

Yesterday's attempt was the third in three days to persuade the whale, nicknamed Moby by locals, to join a pod of four other sperm whales waiting for it off the coast of Burntisland in Fife. Keith



The whale had to pass beneath the Forth bridges to reach the deeper waters of the North Sea, but last night was stranded on a sandbank. Rescuers hoped the tide would move it

Todd, curator of Deep Sea World and the man coordinating the rescue, said the whale was causing a great deal of concern. "If it beaches, it is in serious trouble. The whale has become confused by the shape of the Firth of Forth, the high level of shipping activity and the traffic on both Forth

bridges. The strong spring tides have also caused some problems."

Last night the whale appeared to become stuck on a shell of sandbank beyond the bridges not far from the open sea. Dr Todd said it was a small setback, but he was not overly concerned. "The whale

is likely to get off with the floodtide and we will be keeping the MoD boat and the BP tug in the area until it refloats."

The sperm whale, *Physeter catodon*, has evolved to live in deep water so effectively that it is in danger of stranding whenever it moves inshore. As

soon as it is unsupported by the water its massive weight crushes its internal organs giving would-be rescuers little chance of helping it.

The whale in the Forth is believed to have lost its bearings during its annual migration from the Arctic to the Azores. It lives on giant squid,

fish and octopus and there is very little for it to eat in the Forth. But conservationists say that it is in much greater danger of stranding than of starving.

By 5.30pm yesterday the flotilla of boats, including three BP tugs which normally cost £20,000 per day to oper-

ate, the Maid of the Forth, a commercial ferry, the MoD launch, a coastguard vessel and a Forth road bridge safety vessel, had pushed the whale beyond the Forth bridges.

Shipping in the river, the second busiest waterway in Britain after the English channel, was reduced.

## Governors sack disciplinarian girls' school head

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

A HEADMISTRESS who imposed a uniform code on her staff has been sacked by governors after teachers and parents lost confidence in her strict leadership style.

Yvonne Graham, described as a disciplinarian by parents, took charge of the all-girl Clifton High School in Bristol, four terms ago. She caused a stir after she arrived at the successful independent school by insisting that all male staff wore white shirts and ties and by banning the female teachers from wearing trousers.

Mrs Graham also drew criticism from parents at the £8,500-a-year school for clamping down firmly on a traditional end-of-term prank by sixth formers last summer. Greg Cairns, president of the school council, the governing body, said yesterday: "There was a loss of confidence among a large group of parents and staff. All sorts of things can give rise to that."

"It was not a personality clash per se, and it wasn't a matter of conduct or capability. There is no one single issue which gave rise to the loss of confidence. This decision was reached after some time and with enormous re-

gret. Mrs Graham is a very capable lady, certainly in terms of skills as a headmistress. There was nothing wrong with that."

He would not comment further on the reasons for her dismissal. In her short time at the school, A-level grades rose from an average 21.6 points per pupil in 1995 to 23.7 last summer. A consistent 99 per cent of girls achieved five or more top-grade GCSEs.

Mrs Graham, who married an Army officer and has two grown-up sons, was formerly head of Lavant House School in Chichester, and arrived in January last year at Clifton, where old girls include Jo Durie, the tennis player, and Sara Keays, former secretary of Lord Parkinson, who was then a Conservative Cabinet Minister.

Parents were said to be concerned about Mrs Graham's strict regime and, in particular, a "heavy-handed" response to a sixth-form stunt last May. Dozens of girls dressed up as nuns for a fancy-dress prank, but found themselves suspended and sent home for the day by Mrs Graham.

Mrs Graham was unavailable for comment yesterday.

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# BALLOT 97

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 10. Employment

## Argument centres on Labour's approach to the job

EVEN with unemployment falling and the number of jobs growing, poll evidence suggests that jobs and the number of people out of work will be a key factor in the election. Though the main parties are close on a range of economic issues, the labour market is an area of sharp political division.

Conservatives support continuing and indeed greater deregulation of the labour market. A jobs market hindered by as few regulations as possible is one in which unemployment will fall, and employment will grow, they argue. Labour and the Liberal Democrats, which have only slight policy differences, believe in greater intervention in the labour market through some degree of regulation and through government measures to improve skills and to create jobs for the young and the long-term unemployed. Jobs, in their view,

will come through the better economic growth produced by a more skilled workforce and regulation will provide a floor of minimum employment standards to protect people at work.

In the election, the argument over jobs will focus on a handful of Labour policies, rather than the Conservatives' jobs record since 1979. Labour is proposing to introduce a statutory national minimum wage, to end the opt-out from the social chapter of the European Union's Maastricht treaty, and to pass legislation requiring employers to recognise trade unions for collective bargaining if a majority of their workforce wants it. Tony Blair insists, however, that there will be no return to compulsory union membership under the closed shop system of the 1960s and 1970s. In addition, Labour is proposing a one-off windfall tax on the profits

of privatised utilities to fund a new programme which will guarantee a job, community service or training place to 250,000 young people on the dole. The windfall levy will also pay for a £75-per-week subsidy to employers who offer jobs to the long-term unemployed. Labour's quid pro quo for this job creation will be tougher measures to withdraw benefits from people who refuse offers of training or jobs.

Labour claims that such combinations of carrots and sticks have been effective in putting people back to work in Australia and several American states. The Tories do not reject the principle of in-work benefits and employment subsidies — they have launched several pilot programmes along the same lines — but they argue that Labour's blanket approach will prove costly, could encourage employers to sack workers to take

#### THE POLITICS

advantage of the subsidies, and will waste money by paying for jobs that would have been created even without the state handouts. The Conservatives see inward investment by foreign companies as a clear indicator of the success of their deregulation strategy, though inward investors rarely cite employment conditions as the prime reason for their location decisions. Since 1979, inward-investor companies have provided or guaranteed 790,000 jobs.

Labour counters that the Conservatives' policy of job market deregulation has led directly to widespread feelings of work insecurity, undermining the social benefits of the reduction in unemployment since 1992. Economists are debating, however, how exten-

sive such job insecurity actually is. Europe is central to all these arguments. In parallel with the project in the 1990s to create a single market, the European Commission sought to protect employees with new regulatory initiatives. The Maastricht treaty's social chapter, an agreement on ways to process new job regulations is the latest of these. So far the social chapter directives have covered fairly innocuous issues such as parental leave, but the Tories claim that other, more contentious, policies could be added to the social chapter if the UK signed up. Ministers claim that abandoning the UK's opt-out from the social chapter will lead to the loss of at least half a million jobs, and will damage precisely the competitive advantage that has seen inward-investor companies coming to the UK, rather than other EU states.

The Conservatives argue that Europe's persistently high unemployment and poor job creation performance are direct results of its over-regulated labour market, and contrast sharply with the falling unemployment and accelerating employment growth of the United States, whose labour market is seen as highly deregulated and flexible. Labour's plans for a minimum wage have nothing to do with the social chapter, though they are often thought to be connected. The key issue, on which Labour has been studiously silent, is the level at which the minimum wage would be set. If the wage were set at a very low level, such as £2.50 an hour, it would have little impact, but would leave Labour's trade union supporters dissatisfied. If it were set at £3.50 or higher, some economists believe that hundreds of thousands of unskilled jobs could be de-

stroyed. Others point out, however, that the US has a national minimum wage, which has not prevented it from generating millions of jobs for unskilled workers.

The Tories see old Labour, and especially the unions, lurking in the minimum wage and union recognition proposals. But Labour insists that the main purpose of the minimum wage is to prevent employers from exploiting the welfare system by underpaying their workers and forcing them to claim government benefits.

As for the unions, they are unlikely to play an important part in the electoral debate about employment. In 1979, they had a central role in the election. Now they are rarely mentioned, even by the Tories: a demonstration of the way the political argument has shifted from industrial relations to the creation of jobs.

## Pay gap has grown with demand for new skills

IN 1979, total employment in Britain stood at 25.5 million. In February 1997, it was 26.1 million — a net job growth over the Conservative years of 655,000. In 1979, unemployment had risen to 1.2 million. Now it stands at 1.8 million, 659,500 higher, even after falling fairly consistently for the past four years.

On such stark, simple facts, one judgment of Britain's jobs record under the Conservatives can be reached — that the UK's job performance has been indifferent at best.

However, recalling the employment issues on which the 1979 election was largely fought — Britain's industrial relations performance and the disruptive role of the trade unions — the record over the past 18 years has been an unqualified success.

With 13.3 million employees in trade unions in 1979, Britain lost 29.5 million working days through strikes. Now, with union membership down to 60 per cent of its 1979 level and still falling despite the recent recovery of employment itself, strikes are all but unknown in the private sector, and the number of days lost through strikes last year was just over a million, only 4 per cent of its 1979 total. Not for nothing is the reform of the unions usually cited as the Conservative Government's most significant achievement.

But to choose industrial peace, or the number of jobs, as the sole measure of the Conservative employment record is to belie the shifting complexities that characterise the British labour market. Between the start and the possible endpoint of the Tory period there have been a number of other important changes which make Britain's labour market today significantly different from the way it was when Margaret Thatcher took office.

Labour markets do not change in isolation, and the transformations of the British labour market have taken place against the background of two fundamental and linked trends which have af-

#### THE RECORD

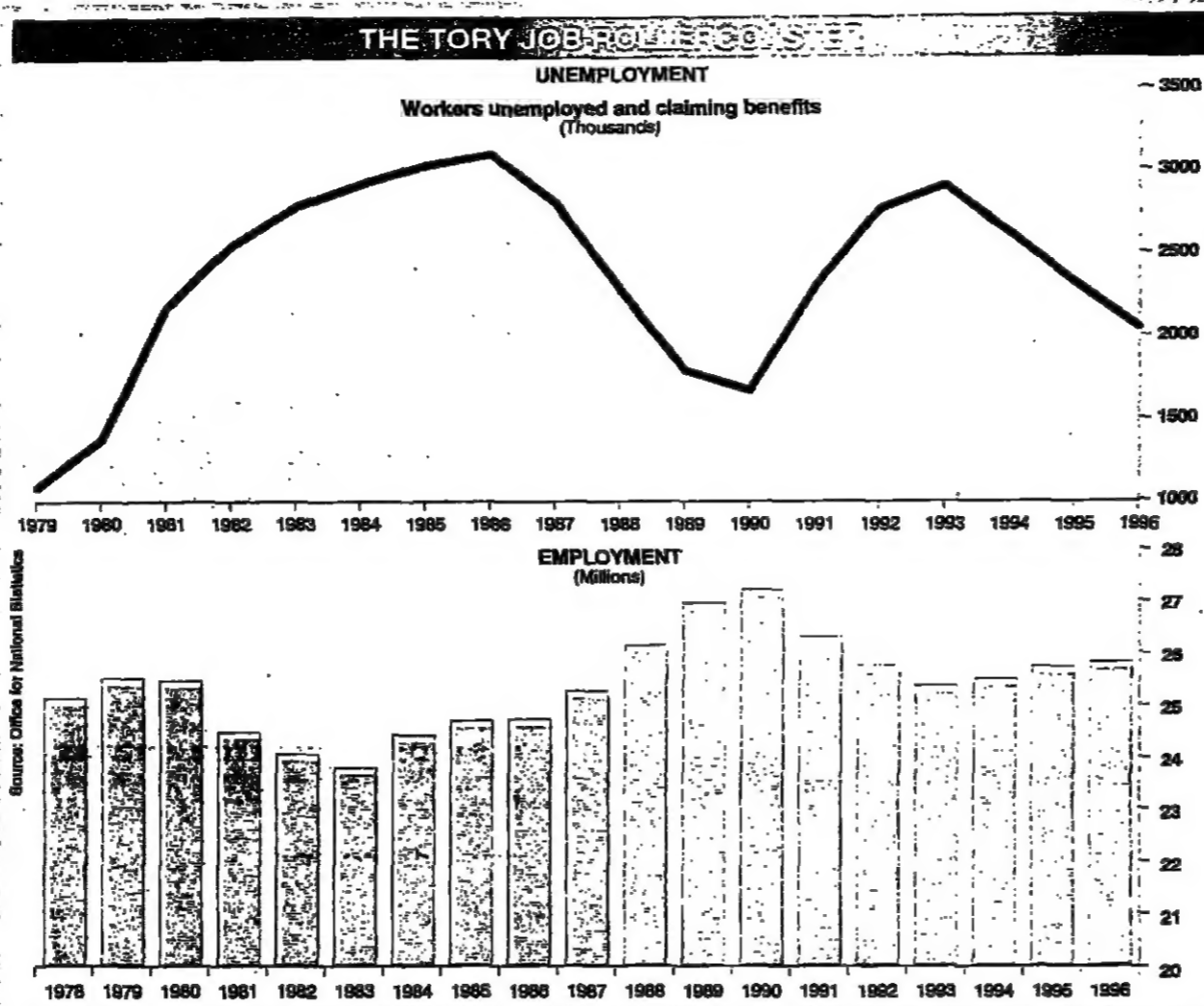
fect economies across the world — the shifting pattern of world trade and the application of new technologies.

Both moves have put strong pressure on jobs in advanced industrial countries such as Britain. As newly emerging economies have entered the world market, multinational firms have been forced to keep their costs highly competitive by seeking lower unit-labour costs and wage rates, an objective which has often been easier to achieve in highly deregulated labour markets.

At the same time, continuing technological advances have meant that many jobs which used to be heavily labour-intensive now either no longer exist, or can be done with a fraction of the workforce. The two trends have often been intertwined. Bookings made in the UK for some airline tickets, for example, used to be manually processed across the counter. Now they are handled by cheaper ticket operators based in South East Asia, linked to Britain by telephones, modems and computers. Changes in trade and technology have gone hand in hand, and clerical jobs have been lost in Britain as a result.

The other side of this coin, however, has been rapid growth in business services and finance, both industries in which Britain has been able to exploit its comparative advantages with the help of technology and the easing of trade barriers and capital controls. Financial services in all their forms today employ the same proportion of Britain's workforce as manufacturing.

This is the kind of evidence used by ministers to support their claim that a more flexible labour market has been the most critical component in Britain's increased prosperity and successful economic performance. Labour under Tony Blair has officially acknowledged these claims, at least in part, but has also suggested that misguided economic poli-



cies — including excessive deregulation and inadequate emphasis on training — have exposed workers to exploitation, have lost jobs that could have been preserved, and have damaged society by destroying job security and undermining long-term investment and planning.

While the direction of the labour market reforms has been clear in the past 18 years, the precise effects of the changes have been hard to gauge, partly because of gaps between the Government's main ways of measuring jobs. While total net employment grew by 2.5 per cent in the 18 years from 1979 to 1996 on the basis of the employer-based surveys used by the Treasury, there are other statistics which suggest a somewhat more dynamic performance. For example, using the Government's Labour Force Survey, which is based on interviewing households, employment since 1979 has risen by 1.28 million, or 5.2 per cent.

Looking at this more generous estimate in greater detail helps to explain some of the pessimism which persists about jobs. Although total employment in Britain has risen, the number of jobs held by men has gone down by 4.6 per cent during the Tory years. An increase of almost two million in jobs held by women has more than accounted for

the whole growth of employment. This shift between the sexes has pushed the proportion of all jobs held by women up from 39 per cent in 1979 to 45 per cent now.

There have also been marked shifts in the age-structure of the workforce, with many older workers forced or encouraged to take early retirement, to be replaced by younger workers on lower wages, whose pensions have also been cheaper to fund.

The types of employment have also seen significant changes. In 1979, the number of people in full-time jobs stood at 18.7 million. Now it is down to 16.7 million, a drop of more than 10 per cent. Full-time jobs used to comprise 77 per cent of the total. Now they are less than two thirds. Part-time working, seen as a hallmark of the UK's more flexible labour market, is up from 3.9 million to 5.7 million — a 45 per cent rise, with part-time work now accounting for more than a fifth of Britain's jobs total.

Most of this part-time activity has reflected the preferences of women with family responsibilities, but a large proportion of the part-time working has been involuntary — about 15 per cent of part-time employees say they would prefer to have full-time jobs. And the greater entrepreneurship of

the Thatcherite 1980s has also been reflected in the large rise of self-employment, up by 86 per cent from 1.8 million in 1979 to 3.3 million now. As a share of all jobs, self-employment has risen from 7 per cent to 13 per cent.

There have been clear switches between sectors: a 42 per cent fall in employment in primary industries such as mining, and a fall of more than 30 per cent in manufacturing employment, which at 7.2 million in 1979 comprised 30 per cent of the total. At 4.9 million now, it is down to 19 per cent.

At the same time, the number of people working in business and financial services has more than doubled, to 2.6 million. And despite the Government's drive to reduce public sector numbers, the total number of people working in the public and social services is up by a fifth, to 1.3 million.

Regions such as East Anglia and the South West have seen sharp rises overall in jobs, by more than 20 per cent, though the South East still holds sway in the job market, taking a total share of 34 per cent of the jobs in 1979 and almost unchanged now at 33 per cent.

Finally, in occupational terms, the decline of manual employment continues, down by more than 3.5 million since 1979, or 31 per cent. Jobs in

service areas such as sales are up in total by 19 per cent, while professional and managerial jobs now form the largest part of total employment, at 36 per cent or 9.3 million in all.

These drastic changes in the demand for different skills and occupations have been the main cause of the widening in earnings inequality throughout the Tory period, although some Labour politicians would also blame the less progressive tax structure and the general climate of "Tory greed".

The precise extent to which the rich have become relatively richer and the poor have got poorer is a matter of intense dispute among economists. This is not a question which can be settled objectively by any one set of figures, since the answer depends critically on whether the comparisons are made between individuals or households, and on whether welfare benefits, in cash and in kind, are taken into account. What almost nobody denies is that the gap between rich and poor has widened. The question to be answered is whether this has been caused by changes in the nature of technology, trade and employment, and whether it can be narrowed by putting a different party in power.

Next week: law and order

#### THE POLITICIANS

##### GILLIAN SHEPARD

Age: 57.

Education: North Walsham High School. Modern languages at St Hilda's, Oxford.

Family: two stepsons.

Experience: former schools inspector, county councillor. Became MP for Norfolk South West in 1987 and rose through Treasury, becoming Employment Secretary, moving to Agriculture, Education then merged Education and Employment.

Politics: dry economically. Major loyalist and friend, cited as possible centrist contender for leadership.



Performance: personally likeable, privately witty. Solid speaker, criticised by the Right as insufficiently radical.

##### DAVID BLUNKETT

Age: 49

Education: Royal Normal College for the Blind, Shrewsbury, night school and day release, then politics at Sheffield University. Family: three children at local comprehensive.

Experience: former leader of Sheffield City Council. Became MP for Sheffield Brightside in 1987. Health and Education before taking both Education and Employment. Likely to retain his post if Labour wins. Politics: standard-bearer of the old "soft Left" in Labour, now moved to the Centre.



Has huge constituency support and is trusted by Tony Blair. Performance: competent and determined.

#### WHAT THEY SAID

Unemployment must be the main preoccupation of economic policymakers in the 1990s.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor

The extent of job insecurity is going to be a central feature of the general election.

Tony Blair

My father did not wait around... he got on his bike and went out looking for work.

Norman Tebbit, Employment Secretary 1981-83

Rising unemployment and the recession have been the price that we've had to pay to get inflation down. That is a price well worth paying.

Norman Lamont, Chancellor 1990-93

We should remember one simple fact — not for a single month since Thatcher first came to office has unemployment been lower than it was when Labour was voted out.

Bill Morris, general secretary TGWU

What I am saying is that job insecurity is a state of mind. The reality is, by creating a flexible labour market, we have actually been creating more jobs.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade

It's a recession when your neighbour loses his job. It's a depression when you lose your own.

Harry S. Truman, US President, 1945-52

#### THE FACTS

□ Britain's total workforce is now 22.2 million employees, 3.4 million self-employed, 220,000 in Armed Forces, 200,000 on training schemes, and 1.8 million unemployed.

□ In Britain, 74 per cent of the working-age population is in work, compared with 77 per cent in Japan and 78 per cent in the USA, and with 68 per cent in the EU.

□ Seventy-five per cent of the British workforce is in full-time work, with a quarter working part-time. For women, 55 per cent are in full-time and 45 per cent in part-time work.

□ Unemployment in Britain now stands at 6.5 per cent, compared with 5.3 per cent in the USA, 3.2 per cent in Japan, 9.3 per cent in Germany and 12.5 per cent in France, and with 10.9 per cent for the EU as a whole.

□ Average earnings in Britain are £31.70 a week — £18,300 a year. For men the weekly figure is £39.16, and for women £28.3.

□ Best independent fore-

**PUBLIC ATTITUDE TO TRADE UNIONS**

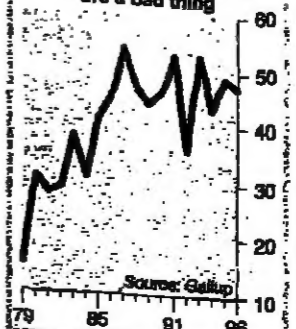
Percentage of people in 1996 saying unions are a:

Good thing 67%

Bad thing 20%

Don't know 13%

Net percentage saying unions are a good thing minus those saying they are a bad thing



casts suggest that employment in the UK will grow by about 1.2 million by 2001, or more than two thirds of that growth in jobs held by women.

#### CONSERVATIVES



Employment: continuing drive for greater flexibility will push up employment by making employing more people more attractive.

Unemployment: will continue to fall with more flexibility, and by attacks on dole fraud through Jobseeker's Allowance and moves such as Project Work. New emphasis on long-term unemployed, but no new schemes.

Training: modern apprenticeship scheme, support for Training and Enterprise Councils.

Social chapter: keep opt-out, oppose EU job regulation. Minimum wage: oppose minimum wages, promote decentralisation of pay bargaining, individual pay setting and performance pay.

Unions: outlaw strikes with "disproportionate" effects. Pay: promote decentralisation of pay bargaining, individual pay setting and performance pay. Public sector pay bill freeze.

Boardrooms: continued self-regulation of executive pay and corporate governance.

#### LABOUR



Employment: greater economic growth will lead to more jobs.

Unemployment: windfall tax on privatised utilities will fund youth employment and training programme. Welfare to work programme that will move people from the dole. £75 weekly subsidies to employers to take on long-term unemployed.

Training: individual learning accounts, matching funding from government.

Social chapter: end opt-out to provide minimum job standards in line with other European employees.

Minimum wage: legislation to provide a minimum wage with level recommended by low pay commission.

Unions: no roll-back of 1980s law, but statutory union recognition for collective bargaining where majority want it. Pay: pay bill freeze for top civil servants in first year. Tight cash limits on public sector pay.

Boardrooms: new powers for utility regulators to counter excessive top pay rises.

#### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Employment: boost jobs by investing in infrastructure, and introduce regional development agencies.

Unemployment: investment in skills, welfare-to-work programme including benefits paid as a voucher to employers. Benefit transfer scheme for long-term unemployed.

Training: work experience part of education from age 14. All adults entitled to retraining. Refundable training levy of 2 per cent of an employer's payroll.

Social chapter: sign the social chapter.

Minimum wage: regionally varied minimum wage.

Unions: legal framework of employment rights, including union membership.

Pay: review equal pay legislation.

Boardrooms: higher top rates of income tax. Direct shareholder elections of companies' executive remuneration committees.

# Important news about the Norwich Union Flotation

Norwich Union members should cast their votes now for or against the Norwich Union flotation.

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Only if the flotation goes ahead will qualifying members get free shares in Norwich Union plc, and the chance to buy extra shares at a special members-only discount.

You should shortly receive a postal voting form, and this should be returned as soon as possible. If the vote is in favour, your application form for shares at a discount will be sent out in May and the flotation should happen in June.

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flotation

INSURANCE

INVESTMENTS

HEALTHCARE

PENSIONS

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE FLOTATION PROPOSAL AND MEMBERSHIP ARE SET OUT IN THE CIRCULAR DATED 20TH MARCH. QUALIFYING MEMBERS ARE, BROADLY, THOSE WHO HAVE A NULUS LIFE INSURANCE, PENSION OR ANNUITY POLICY, WHICH WAS IN FORCE AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON 1ST OCTOBER 1996, AND IS STILL IN FORCE ON 18TH APRIL 1997. HOME, MOTOR, OR HEALTH INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR FREE SHARES OR SHARES AT A DISCOUNT, NOR DO CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE INCOME PROTECTION INSURANCE OR WHO BELONG TO COMPANY PENSION SCHEMES. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES CALL THE CUSTOMER INFORMATION LINE ON 0645 444818 (CALLS WILL BE CHARGED AT THE LOCAL RATE AND WILL BE RECORDED OR MONITORED.) THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY (WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY FOR INVESTMENT BUSINESS) AND APPROVED BY KLEINWORT BENSON LIMITED (WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES AUTHORITY) FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 57 OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT 1986.

# Synagogue accused of sex bias over Gryn post

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the country's leading synagogues is divided over whether it should appoint a woman as senior rabbi. Accusations of prejudice have been made against officials of the West London Synagogue, the renowned centre of Reform Judaism formerly led by the late Hugo Gryn.

Members of the congregation want the synagogue's popular associate minister, Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, to succeed Dr Gryn, who died last year. The synagogue council has decided to look elsewhere. Insiders at the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (RSGB) and the synagogue itself believe that Mrs Tabick is opposed because she is a woman. A petition in support of Rabbi Tabick, who has served the synagogue for many years, has attracted 500 signatures.

Dr Richard Stone, a vice-president of the RSGB and a worshipping member of the synagogue, said: "I feel that she has not been treated well. A large number of people feel the same thing. I have no doubt that there is prejudice against having a woman in such a senior position. It is very unfortunate, because for the ordinary person the most

obvious difference between Reform and Orthodox Jewry is that we have women rabbis, and men and women can sit together in the synagogue."

Another insider, who asked not to be named, said: "She is a charming and capable person. But they won't give her the job because she is not a man. It is as simple as that."

The Jewish Chronicle reports claims that support for Rabbi Tabick is less widespread than had been thought, and that some members had been "coerced" to sign the petition.

With more than 2,000 families, the West London Synagogue, founded more than 150 years ago, has the largest membership of any synagogue in the country. It became known far beyond the Jewish community under the leadership of Rabbi Gryn, a Holocaust survivor who became a nationally known broadcaster and who was assiduous in helping to improve inter-faith relations. The post is viewed as one of Britain's most important rabbinical appointments.

The synagogue's rabbinical appointment council has considered various proposals, including appointing three rabbis to replace Dr Gryn, with Rabbi Tabick as "pastoral" rabbi. Rabbi Tabick rejected these plans but is understood still to be considering modified proposals.

In a letter to members of the congregation, seen by The Times, the synagogue's president, David Lewin, and its chairman, Jeff Samson, referred to "action on the part of a few of our members - which can only be harmful - to question the decision of our elected council".

Rabbi Tabick was unavailable for comment last night.



Rabbi Tabick is said to face prejudice



Brave hearts: Heather Ripley with her daughter Josie, 9, at the site of her latest environmental protest in Scotland

## Actress moves from screen to green

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CHILD star of the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* has taken on the role of an environmental protester. Heather Ripley, who in the film helps her screen father, Dick Van Dyke, to overthrow a monarch who hates children, now travels the country trying to defend nature.

At the weekend she pitched her tent at Pressmennan Wood, East Lothian, where a company intends to fell 300 oak trees. The protesters are camped around a flag of the Scottish lion on Clints Dod hill, near the village of Stenton. Ms Ripley, 37, who also worked as a model in the United States, is accompanied by her daughter Josie, 9, and son Cosmo, 11.

Her previous performances for the "eco-warriors" have



On film: as Jemima, centre, in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

stretched from the Outer Hebrides to the Newbury bypass route. She joined the tunnel protester Swampy on a demonstration against nuclear submarines at Faslane naval base.

She was discovered by Hollywood producers while

working in repertory in Dundee and spent 14 months making *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, which came out in 1968.

Her environmental campaigning was inspired by a film of Australian protesters who chained themselves to trees. The feature film

*Braveheart* roused her passions to protect the countryside in her home country.

She said: "I was amazed at the dedication of people chained to trees and in the path of bulldozers. Their tactics seemed spectacular. It seemed far removed from nice quiet life and something I was unlikely ever to become involved in."

"But I heard of the plans to put a road through an ancient burial chamber in Lewis and I had to get involved. Although we failed to stop the building of the road, that first step of action changed my life."

The Forestry Commission said the oaks were to be felled under a new management plan to preserve the long-term future of Pressmennan Wood, which had no young trees to replace the mature ones when they died.

## Bishop to reveal new plans for bombed church

By LIN JENKINS

A NEW proposal for the bomb-damaged medieval church of St Ethelburga, Bishopsgate, in the City of London, could end four years of wrangling in the Church.

Plans for a modern glass-fronted design that left exposed the parts of the church damaged by an IRA bomb were rejected by City planners last year. The Rt Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, will announce the latest proposal tomorrow.

It is understood that the revised plans envisage St Ethelburga being reopened as a centre for peace, reconciliation and mediation. It is unclear what plans the bishop has for the fabric of the building, about a third of which was destroyed.

Traditionalists had pressed for the Grade One listed building to be restored, with its medieval street frontage, roof and 18th-century bell turret. The decision to look again at the future of the building came after planners rejected the design by the architects Blee Ettwein Bridges to redevelop the site after some Church leaders argued that there were too many churches in the City.

Planners deemed the £3 million scheme - which would have encased the ruins in glass and steel and incorporated a memorial garden, gallery and office building - as "inappropriate".

Objections were raised by the Ancient Monuments Society, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, the London Society, the Retail Traders Association, the City Heritage Society and the Friends of St Ethelburga.

The friends had lobbied for a plan by the architects Rothermel Thomas. It proposed rebuilding the church, including the popular walled garden, to provide "a valuable ecclesiastical and meeting space" in the City.

## Three exam boards to merge

Three examination boards are to combine after a government demand for mergers to protect A-level and GCSE standards. Further cuts in the range of syllabuses available to schools are expected to follow the merger of the Associated Examining Board, Northern Examinations and Assessments Board and City & Guilds. Boards have already been asked to reduce to two each the number of syllabuses per subject by next year.

## Buzzards return

Buzzards have returned to the Yorkshire Dales after an absence of 150 years. Bird watchers have recorded at least 15 pairs, raising hopes that the rare species will colonise the east of the country once more.

## Hand severed

Surgeons reattached a man's hand after it was severed by an attacker with a samurai sword. It was too early to say if the victim, 25, from Wigan, would lose that hand. A man aged 22 was charged with grievous bodily harm.

## Places pledge

Independent schools were reassured that new assisted places will be honoured if Labour wins the general election, even though the Department for Education has stopped confirming them during the election period.

## Burger relish

A free burger for pupils who rarely play truant has been negotiated with McDonald's by Rhodri Lewis, a teacher at Cwm Rhymni school, Bargoed, Caerphilly. Other incentives are geometry sets, book tokens and Easter eggs.

## Tenor's farewell

Luciano Pavarotti is to make a farewell gesture to the Royal Opera House's present building with a recital accompanied by piano on May 11. Tickets are likely to cost up to £125. The building is to close for a two-year redevelopment.

# Homeowners

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

hospital treatment (AP)

# Cheaper laser eye surgery may put standards at risk

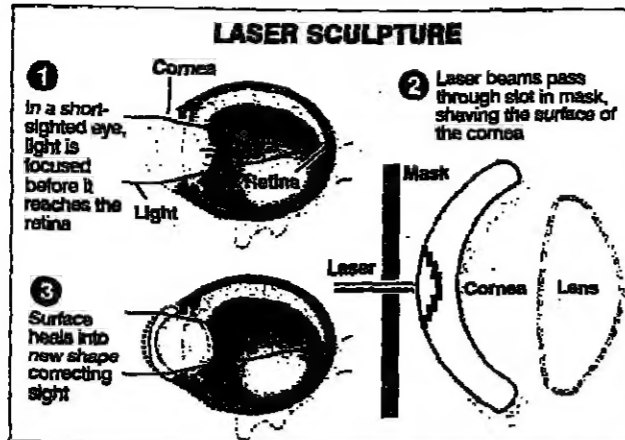
BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CUT-PRICE laser treatment to correct short sight may lead to a fall in standards, optometrists have warned. The price of the treatment has dropped from about £1,500 per eye to less than £300 in two years, and up to 15,000 patients a year now have the surgery.

The British College of Optometrists says that the technique, which involves shaving a tiny layer from the surface of the cornea to correct its focus, is still experimental, and this should be explained by the 25 laser clinics to their patients.

Keith Edwards, professional adviser to the college, said: "The real concern is over the quality of the procedure and how it is conducted. In general the results are pretty good, pretty predictable and pretty stable. But that is the average and there are always extreme responses."

Problems included scarring and distortion of vision, but they were rare, he said. Most patients would experience an improvement in vision, but it might not be sufficient to allow them to dispense with specta-



cles, and the treatment could not halt the normal decline in vision with age.

Mr Edwards said: "The problem is that, once it is done, it cannot be undone. Most other methods of correcting sight are reversible. Even with contact lenses you can always take them out."

Clearsight, a London clinic, was charging £1,400 per eye in 1994, including aftercare, but dropped its price to £995 more than a year ago and has recently cut it again to £295, including one follow-up visit. The initial assessment and

subsequent follow-ups are charged at £25 each. Vivian Highman, consultant ophthalmologist at the clinic, said: "Like any commodity, laser treatment was more expensive when it first came out. Now we know more accurately what what can be done." Mr Highman said all care was provided by consultants and, although the clinic's laser was an older model, it had been upgraded four times. "It is virtually the same as the modern ones," he said.

Russell Ambrose, owner of the Optimax chain of five laser

clinics which treats more than 200 patients a week and charges £95 per eye, including aftercare, said economies of scale made the lower price possible. "It's a business. We are a specialist provider."

He said consultants provided the initial assessment and the treatment but the follow-up checks were by opticians. "If there are any complications the doctor will see the patient again. The opticians are under the control and supervision of the doctor and legal responsibility for the patients remains with the doctor."

Charles Magee, Professor of Ophthalmology at Dundee University and chairman of the British Excimer Laser Society, said: "If you have low prices you may have to rush patients through to meet financial goals." He said the high price of lasers, at £400,000 each, meant charges had to be high in the early years but could be reduced once the machine had been paid for. The older machines were adequate for simple, low-level shortsight but might not be for complex problems.

Science Briefing, page 15



Etienne Bacrot moves closer to becoming the youngest grandmaster at the tournament in Enghien-les-Bains

## Chess boy becomes grandmaster at 14

A FRENCH boy aged 14 could soon be a millionaire after becoming the world's youngest chess grandmaster at the weekend (Raymond Keene writes). Etienne Bacrot, who achieved his result in the international tournament at Enghien-les-Bains in France, is likely to be courted by computer manufacturers seeking his endorse-

ment of their products. He is, however, one of the few experts who does not rely on computer analysis to support his efforts. And, unlike many

prodigies, he is not accompanied by pushy parents. In the final round he needed only a draw to take the title. He won with black in 41 moves, ex-

ceeding his requirements by half a point. His age of fourteen years and two months beat the previous record, held by the Hungarian Peter Leko, who became a grandmaster at fourteen years, four months and 22 days. Previous holders include Bobby Fischer.

Keene on Chess, page 38

## Clear alternative to glasses is not an easy choice



### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Short sight is to a large extent inherited. Its incidence varies from one race to another: in the Far East more than 90 per cent of students in some universities need to wear spectacles because of the condition.

It is uncertain what link there is between short sight and a high IQ. The Victorians thought that eyes could become strained by years spent poring over books, but a few decades ago the popular medical view was that short-sighted people gravitated towards the library because they found it hard to exert at games. Recently there has been support for a theory that a high IQ and short sight may, in some cases, be part of a genetic package.

Short sight may start in early childhood and is usually obvious by puberty. The eyesight may continue to deteriorate and usually becomes stabilised in the early 20s. Wearing glasses may affect self-esteem and be an inconvenience at work and at play. Contact lenses may be uncomfortable and may cause serious infection.

Vision is impaired by too great a distance between the front of the cornea and the retina, the membrane at the back of the eye which converts the images that it receives into nerve impulses for transmission to the brain. The cornea and lens in a short-sighted person focus the viewed image to a point well in front of the retina, so it is out of focus.

Ophthalmologists in Russia

were the first to popularise surgery to correct short sight. They altered the shape of the eyeball, making it rounder and therefore less long, by cutting radial incisions. This technique, known as radial keratotomy, was greeted with some suspicion in the West although a Russian hospital ship did brisk trade when it toured the Mediterranean coast offering the operation.

Some British surgeons use the technique and claim excellent results without serious complications, but its popularity has been reduced by concern about the long-term effects and the danger of rupture of the eyeball.

In laser surgery, the eye's focusing mechanism is altered by shaving the cornea with a laser beam. The technique has proved reliable and is popular with patients.

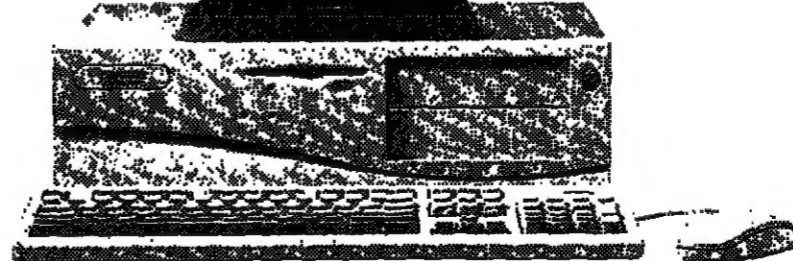
The success of laser therapy is dependent on choosing a surgeon who is very selective when deciding which patients should be offered the operation. The primary objective must be to improve the sight of a person who feels that their life is being spoilt by having to wear spectacles.

When trouble has arisen, usually it has been because clinical judgment has been warped by the need to earn guineas, so that unsuitable cases are selected for treatment and others are inadequately supervised.

DR THOMAS  
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Security crackdown in key towns as Hamas guerrillas threaten further wave of attacks

# Israel pulls back from complete break in talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN EMERGENCY session of Israel's security Cabinet decided last night against suspension of all talks with the Palestinians and instead demanded that the Palestinian Authority fulfil its obligations to "fight terrorism as an essential step for continuing the political process".

The decision was taken in the face of opposition by some hawkish ministers, who had demanded a complete cessation of contacts in response to the claim that Yasser Arafat gave the "green light" for the start of a new campaign of suicide attacks.

Last Friday's explosion in a Tel Aviv café, in which three people were killed and 40 hurt, was the first of its kind since Benjamin Netanyahu came to power promising Israelis "peace with security".

Mr Netanyahu's communications director, David Bar-Ilan, said that for now talks would continue only "on issues directly related to preventing terrorism... until there is satisfaction on the security level".

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, yesterday threatened more suicide attacks such as the one in Tel Aviv, and denied that Mr Arafat would be able to crack down on its activities as it claimed to have an organisational structure in place and ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under his control.

Mr Netanyahu said after the meeting in Tel Aviv, a city surrounded by new Israeli roadblocks designed to try to thwart the Islamic bombers: "I am not suspending talks because our people are meeting their people, but the first item on the agenda is the fulfilment of the Palestinian obligation to fight terrorism. They have to start complying

with that, or else we cannot move." The Palestinians shrugged off the Israeli threats, claiming that negotiations were already in deadlock. They blamed Israel's decision last Tuesday to defy world opinion and send the bulldozers to begin building at Har Homa, a new settlement for 32,000 Jews on land annexed by Israel after its conquest from Jordan in the 1967 war.

The Hamas statement, treated as authentic and signed "Iz al-Deen, al-Qassam

Brigades, Hamas Movement Military Branch, Jerusalem-Occupied Palestine", went on in response to Mr Netanyahu's public pledge to continue with Har Homa, despite Friday's bomb: "We do not need much effort to prove our truthfulness and the seriousness of our threats... to teach the arrogant Netanyahu a lesson he will not forget for days and years."

Friday's suicide bomber came from a West Bank village still under Israeli mili-

Palestinian mobs attacked soldiers guarding the 450 Jewish settlers for the third day in succession, hurling petrol bombs and shouting a new inflammatory slogan: "We do not want peace, we want Hamas."

By last night the Palestinian authorities said that nearly 200 Palestinians had been injured since last Friday, 20 of them by live ammunition fired by troops.

As the settlers celebrated the Jewish festival of Purim in a bizarre carnival atmosphere enhanced by wigs and fancy dress, Palestinians living in the area still under Israeli control were under curfew and Palestinian police formed a human chain in an attempt to keep angry protesters from trying to storm the Jewish properties from the 80 per cent of the city now back in Arab control.

The spiral of bloodshed provoked by Har Homa has, according to travel agents, dealt a severe blow to Easter tourism. At least one tourist bus has been stoned in Bethlehem.

Yesterday morning two Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli border guards at a roadblock between Bethlehem and Jerusalem after a dispute over identity cards.

**"We do not need much effort to prove the truthfulness of our threat to teach Netanyahu a lesson"**

with that, or else we cannot move."

The Palestinians shrugged off the Israeli threats, claiming that negotiations were already in deadlock. They blamed Israel's decision last Tuesday to defy world opinion and send the bulldozers to begin building at Har Homa, a new settlement for 32,000 Jews on land annexed by Israel after its conquest from Jordan in the 1967 war.

The Hamas statement, treated as authentic and signed "Iz al-Deen, al-Qassam

tary rule and where a strict curfew has been imposed. His family is attempting legal moves to prevent their house being destroyed by Israeli troops.

On the ground in Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, the tinderbox atmosphere caused more violence and prompted the Israeli security forces to throw up an unprecedented ring of roadblocks around Tel Aviv and other cities in an attempt to thwart the Hamas bombers. In Hebron, stone-throwing

## Hamas fighter broke mould of typical suicide bomber

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AS THE three women victims of last week's Tel Aviv bomb were buried yesterday, Israeli security experts were studying details about the suicide attacker who blew himself up after selecting a table in the most crowded part of a café.

Unlike the conventional profile of Islamic terror group bombers — single, unemployed Palestinian men in their late teens or early twenties — Moussa Abu Delyah Ghneimat was 28, married with four young children and had regularly worked in the kitchens at restaurants in Israel, including two in Rishon LeZion, home of Israel's wine industry.

"The fact that he had four kids of

his own and must have known that his bomb was going to blow up a mother and baby sitting in a pram near him makes the attack all the more chilling," said one Jerusalem housewife.

The yellow duffel bag he was carrying contained explosives and nails. The bomb killed Anat Rosen-Winter, 32, a lawyer and mother of the six-month baby, Shani, whose picture, dressed in a Purim clown's costume, appeared on front pages throughout the world. Michael Avrami, 32, a doctor who was four months pregnant with her first child, also died in the blast.

Security sources admitted that the identity of the attacker had made the task of pinpointing potential suicide bombers more difficult.

It also opened up the prospect that a number may already be inside Israel waiting to act, despite the closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ghneimat came from a Muslim family in the occupied village of Zuriel, near Hebron. Neighbours described him as "a quiet guy" who regularly slept overnight at his work in Israel.

It emerged yesterday that he had been dismissed from one restaurant in Rishon LeZion a few weeks ago for flirting with a Jewish waitress, but returned to work in the kitchen and slept on the premises the night before he took a bus to Tel Aviv to carry out his mission.

"Restaurant workers do not remember him talking politics. There

was no sign he had any political interest," said a lawyer for one of the two restaurant owners released on £5,000 bail after being arrested for employing the Palestinian without work permits.

"He had been an employee and had worked at several places in Tel Aviv and other places in the centre of the country," said Yaacov Perry, former head of the Shin Bet internal security service. Mr Perry added: "From what I understand, he aroused the attention of the manager of the Apropos café because he was wearing a long coat even though it was 26°C (78°F) and most people were in short sleeves." However, he would have detonated the bomb if he approached, so there was no way to prevent the attack.

Rishon LeZion police arrested 23 illegal Palestinian workers over the weekend who were working in four restaurants, where they are favoured by employers because they accept low wages and are hard workers. The Tel Aviv daily, *Haaretz*, reported that all the owners — who were also arrested — had allowed the Arabs to sleep on the premises "even after the Tel Aviv attack".

In a statement Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, believed to have at least 100 more volunteer suicide bombers, said: "[Benjamin] Netanyahu has to realise that the failure to change his current settlement policies will lead to an explosive situation and a crisis in the entire region."



A Palestinian uses a catapult to hurl stones towards Israeli soldiers in Hebron

## Islam told of duty to rescue Jerusalem

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, warned Israel that its hardline position on the construction of Jewish settlements in Arab east Jerusalem and the latest housing development in the area could lead to the total collapse of the Middle East peace process.

At the same time he made an emotional appeal to Muslim countries to rescue Jerusalem from "Zionist clutches", adding: "It is a religious duty of all Muslims to act to save Islam's holy place from the danger of Judaisation."

Mr Arafat, who was addressing an extraordinary summit meeting of the 54 members of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, said that Israel's latest move had taken the peace process down a dead end. The one-day meeting ended late yesterday after adopting a declaration supporting the claims of the Palestinians on Jerusalem. Among the Islamic leaders attending the conference were President Rafsanjani of Iran, President Edemir of Turkey, and Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Arafat said that time was fast running out for peace. "Israeli plans to establish Jewish settlements in east Jerusalem are a flagrant violation of the peace agreement brokered by Washington."

In a scathing attack on America he said that it was unfortunate that Washington had been supporting Israel's illegal action.

Faruq Kaddumi, a close associate of Mr Arafat, declared that last week's suicide bombing was a normal reaction to the provocative policies of the Israeli Government. "When a cat is driven to the wall, it is natural for her to attack," he said.

Mr Kaddumi, a former spokesman for Mr Arafat on foreign affairs, believed the charge made by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that the bombing took place on the instructions of Mr Arafat. "That is a blatant lie," he told journalists after the conference.



Ghneimat: had young family

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## Diplomatic dilemmas await Gore in Beijing

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AL GORE, the American Vice-President, will need to step gingerly when he sets foot in Beijing today for four days of talks.

A year in the planning, the visit had once been envisaged as a showcase for Mr Gore to show off his skills as a world statesman as just one of his qualifications to succeed Bill Clinton in 2000. But that was before America's China policy was sabotaged by the campaign financing row, with allegations that China funnelled money into last year's election through proxy donors to try to influence the Administration and members of Congress.

Although China has denied the charges as slanderous, Chinese officials are under investigation by the FBI, making Mr Gore's task more complicated. After some dithering among his aides, he has decided to broach the subject with Chinese leaders, but in a non-accusatory way, he said. Mr Gore's own legally dubious role adds to the delicacy of his position — he made telephone solicitations from the White House and attended a fundraising event at a Buddhist temple.

He is also in a quandary over the chance to seal a lucrative deal for the sale of Boeing 777s to China. The contract would be a victory for the American aircraft manufacturer over Europe's Airbus Industrie and would protect hundreds of jobs at Boeing's factories in Seattle.

At one time the Administration banged the drum loudly for American business in China, but that commercial diplomacy is muted now. White House officials fear any gestures that could be interpreted as paybacks for Chinese cam-

aign contributions. Only after much agonising did Mr Gore decide that he probably will attend the ceremony if the Boeing contract is signed while he is in Beijing.

Another dilemma for Mr Gore is China's eagerness to win admission to the World Trade Organisation. The Vice-President might have been eager to help, but he has been trumped by Richard Gephardt, leader of the House Democrats and Mr Gore's rival for the party's presidential nomination in 2000.

Mr Gephardt, denouncing the Administration's progress in challenging China over human rights abuses, has introduced legislation that would require congressional approval for Chinese admission to the WTO. The majority Republicans may gleefully take him up on it.

Mr Gore is the highest-ranking American official to visit China since President Bush in 1989, a few months before the Tiananmen Square crackdown. His discussions will cover a broad range of issues, including Hong Kong.

He will also deal with preparations for the promised exchange of state visits. President Jiang Zemin is expected to travel to America this year and Mr Clinton tentatively plans to go to China next year. Both these trips could be clouded unless the campaign gifts controversy has been tidied up by then.

□ Tokyo: Mr Gore yesterday ruled out any cuts in US forces in Japan, saying it was the "worst time" for such reductions. Before flying to China, Mr Gore had talks last night with Yukihiko Ikeda, Japan's Foreign Minister. Mr Ikeda also ruled out cuts at present. (Reuters)



A wax model of the Dalai Lama is adjusted by a member of Madame Tussaud's at a travel fair in Bombay

## Dalai Lama hopes to make deal with Chinese on Tibet

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

THE Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, said yesterday at the start of a visit to Taiwan that he was optimistic of reaching an agreement with Beijing about autonomy for his country.

He said he had informed the Chinese about his Taiwan trip and the response had been less harsh than he expected.

The Dalai Lama was showered with praise on arrival, but Beijing warned the Taiwanese Government that the exiled leader is "a criminal splittist".

Thousands of monks, nuns, Tibetan refugees and ordinary Buddhists mobbed him when he visited the Fuguan-shan temple, where amid the beating of drums and bells he was escorted by one of his hosts in Taiwan, Master Xing Yuan, the temple's founder. Once inside, speaking in Tibetan and occasionally Chinese, the Dalai Lama led prayers for peace.

Although he described the purpose of his six-day visit to Taiwan, his first, as promoting "basic human values and

religious harmony", the visit has been denounced in Beijing by the official People's Daily as the "Taiwan authorities and the Dalai Lama clique colluding and using each other, consorting with evildoers, going further down the road of splitting China".

The Dalai Lama is looking forward to meeting President Lee Teng-hui. The meeting will probably be in a guest house rather than in Mr Lee's office, to reduce the impression of a state welcome.

On Taiwan, Tibet is officially claimed as a part of China of which Taipei insists it is the legitimate government. The official position is represented by the Government's Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Office, and there are Tibetan representatives in Taiwan's parliament.

The Council is sometimes accused of funding rival groups of Tibetans who do not respect the Dalai Lama. It denies this and says much of its money is spent on helping occupational training schemes for Tibetan refugees living in India.

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## Tall Ships prepare for battle in Pacific

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG

IMAGES of clipper races, nostalgia of Empire and romance of sail combined in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour this weekend with the arrival of 33 gracious vessels which will take part in the first Tall Ships race in the northern Pacific.

The magnificent old craft will set sail for Osaka on Good Friday after a two-day regatta in the Fragarant Harbour. Competitors from as far afield as Poland, Mexico and Colombia are taking part in the 1,450-mile voyage. The biggest ship taking part is the *Dar Młodzieży* from Poland, which is 354 ft long, and the 294 ft *Cuahtemoc* from Mexico.

"When the ships leave it will be the most phenomenal sight. They will head off to the east, so there will be the mainland of Kowloon on one side and the Peak on Hong Kong island on the other. With the ships fully rigged, it will be terrific," said Ian Dale, director of Hong Kong's Marine Department.

The journey comprises two racing stages from Hong Kong to Okinawa and Kagoshima to Osaka, and a cruise-in-company leg of 350 miles from Okinawa to Kagoshima. The biggest ships will sail with up to 200 crew members.

On board *Ji Fung* (Spirit of Revolution), the ship representing Hong Kong, are a lawyer, doctor, administrator, plumber and an air-traffic controller who, according to the captain, Greg Tomlinson, know basically nothing about sailing. "We are all in the same boat. Of course, we don't want it to sink," said Sung Woei-min, 25, a graphic designer.

Sailing may be the oldest form of locomotion, but the sextant will play only a decorative role in this trip. The captains are relying on the latest gadgetry — global positioning system navigation and radar.

The sight of the ships harks back to the 1860s when there was a clipper race from Canton, and later Fuzhou, China's principal tea port, to London each year. British tea merchants paid an extra £2 per tonne for tea for the first trader to arrive from China.



Bush: first jump was not flawless

## Bush to repeat aircraft bale-out

BY IAN BRODIE

THIS time, George Bush will jump by choice. The former American President, who baled out of his crippled navy bomber 52 years ago, will parachute for a second time tomorrow.

At 72, he is due to jump out of an aircraft over Arizona at 12,500ft. "The reasons behind this are strictly personal," Jim McGrath, Mr Bush's assistant, said. "It has to do with World War Two. When it happens, we'll explain it."

These cryptic remarks have given rise to speculation that Mr Bush may be trying to exorcise demons from his earlier jump. Two crew members died in the episode and the issue flared up as a dispute during Mr Bush's presidential campaign in 1968.

In 1944, Mr Bush, then a 20-year-old pilot, came under anti-aircraft fire during a raid over the Japanese-held island of Chichijima in the Pacific. In a 1987 account, which differed from his earlier versions, Mr Bush said the two crew had been killed and the plane was engulfed in flames. But the war hero carried on to the target and dropped his bomb before bailing out.

His story was questioned by a gunner in the plane just in front of Mr Bush's who said his plane was never on fire and it was possible Mr Bush "could have saved" his two crewmen "if they were alive" if he had attempted a water landing.

Mr Bush has admitted his jump under fire was not flawless. He pulled his rip cord too quickly and was gashed on his forehead when he hit the tail of his plane.

# Lifelong campaign against Mobutu pays off for Kabila

FROM SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN KINSHASA

THE hatchet-faced, 6ft-tall Tutsi bodyguard stared down at his leader, Laurent Desiré Kabila, a roly-poly revolutionary with a smile as ready as a humourless Tutsi's frown.

When I first met the head of Zaire's rebellion at his base in Uvira in South Kivu last November, it was difficult to believe that the English-speaking Tutsi from Rwanda, and a graduate of Belgrade University, could have been a comrade-in-arms of the legendary Che Guevara.

Is Mr Kabila, who now controls a third of Zaire and may topple President Mobutu,

a puppet of Rwanda, Uganda, and their allies in Washington? Is he just a front-man for Rwanda's operation against Hutu extremists in refugee camps inside east Zaire? Or is he using the Tutsis as stalking-horses for a genuine rebellion against dictatorship? Five months later the answer is "yes" to all three questions. And, so far, "no" to views that he is planning to use Zaire as a base for a pan-African Communist revolution.

Born in 1939 in Jadotville, now Likasi, in what was Katanga province, Mr Kabila has been fighting against Presi-

dent Mobutu most of his life, sustaining his war efforts by allegedly indulging in gold smuggling in the provinces of North and South Kivu.

Although he is suspected of the kidnapping of three American workers at Jane Goodall's chimpanzee sanctuary at Gombe in Tanzania, Mr Kabila is now the darling of the diplomatic crowd in Washington and European capitals. But not so in Paris, where he is seen as a marionette of American plans to eclipse French influence in the region.

His language is still peppered with 1960s revolutionary slogans about "emancipation of the masses", but he has abandoned the wider Marxist rhetoric of his youth for pro-democratic clichés and commitments to a "free market throughout Zaire". This ideological switch at the age of 58 may seem suspect, but it is worth noting that six months before President Zaire swept to power after 11 years of civil war in Ethiopia, he declared his economic model was then President Hoxha's Albania.

Mr Kabila has been tutored in how to succeed as a revolutionary in post-Cold War Africa by President Museveni of

Uganda and Paul Kagame, Rwanda's Vice-President and Defence Minister. They both came to power through rebel forces and are much admired by American officials.

No one, least of all Uganda and Rwanda, expected the rebellion of Tutsi Banyamulenge in Zaire which they backed last November would climax in a national uprising against President Mobutu's dictatorship. "In the early stages, the Rwandan and

Ugandan aims were clear... to send military officers to help the Banyamulenge defend themselves against Hutu and Zairean extremists and at the same time rid east Zaire of Hutu extremists and Ugandan rebel movements. This was quickly achieved, but what followed surprised everyone," a Western envoy in Kinshasa said yesterday.

Mr Kabila is the ideal candidate to represent the Alliance of Democratic Forces for

Liberation of Congo-Zaire. In 1960, he had fought for Patrice Lumumba, then Prime Minister, against Katanga secessionists, and had taken part in uprisings in North and South Kivu. By the mid-1960s he fled to Kenya and Tanzania after the rebel "governments" he helped to set up were routed by Mr Mobutu's army with the help of mercenaries and Belgian paratroops.

Mr Kabila resurfaced in 1977 to take part in an uprising

against President Mobutu in Kisangani, but was once again ejected, this time by French and Moroccan troops.

Now, however, "no one thought that Kabila would sweep through Zaire so quickly", the ambassador said. "But he has become the one man who has exposed the myth of the state of Zaire: the man that said 'the emperor has no clothes'. He is the man Zaireans now trust to put the country straight," he declared.



Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, with UN envoy Mohamed Sahnoun, is cheered by supporters in Kisangani

## Five found dead in fire at cult home

St Casimir, Canada: The bodies of three women and two men were found by firemen in a Quebec home belonging to a member of the Swiss-based Order of the Solar Temple cult, police said here yesterday.

A girl and two boys, discovered behind the house, were being treated by a doctor.

The possibility of a collective suicide was being investigated after the blaze. More than 70 members of the sect were killed in apparent group suicides in 1994 and 1995. (AFP)

## Rival fans clash

Amsterdam: A man was killed and dozens injured in a battle between hundreds of rival soccer fans (Mark Fuller writes). Supporters of Ajax FC of Amsterdam and Feyenoord of Rotterdam attacked one another with baseball bats, knives and hammers in a field on the outskirts of Beverwijk, near Amsterdam. Police said the fight was pre-arranged.

## Bomb suspect

Washington: Canada has arrested a Saudi man as a suspect in the lorry bomb attack on a barracks that killed 19 American soldiers near Dhahran in Saudi Arabia last June (Ian Brodie writes). Hani Abdel-Rahim Hussein al-Sayegh, 28, is wanted for questioning by the FBI in Washington.

## Spicer charged

Sydney: Colonel Tim Spicer, leader of the mercenaries hired by Papua New Guinea, is due to face a minor firearms charge in Port Moresby today (Roger Maynard writes). Australia's largest company, BHP, closed its steel mill in the capital and evacuated about 20 employees.

## Life on the line

Tokyo: A boy aged 18 months escaped with a minor cut to his head when he crouched on the tracks as a train passed over him in Nagasaki, with the driver desperately trying to brake. The boy had been visiting his grandparents, who live near the tracks. (AP)

## Zaire talks hope rises

ZAIRE'S Government inched closer to negotiations with eastern rebels yesterday after a haggard President Mobutu emerged from three days of seclusion in the capital to greet Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's Deputy President (Sam Kiley writes).

After kissing his visitor, Mr Mobutu, 66, cracked out a few lines of explanation for his second return in eight months from cancer treatment in Europe. "I have come back

not to look after the interests and the fortunes of Mobutu, as some of you [the press] write, but to look after the interests of Zaire," he gasped from beneath his trademark leopard-skin hat.

Mr Mbeki said he had delivered a personal letter from President Mandela, and gave a broad hint that Mr Mandela was pressing the Zairean President to agree to negotiations with the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila.

## Northerners put faith in Berisha

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

TO THE north of Tirana lies rolling upland — a Third World mishmash of half-built villas, pit latrines and wrecked cars. This is "Chechen" country: the hardest of Albanians, highlanders who carry their guns with pride and shoot skywards in support of President Berisha.

"To us he is a legend — he cut the rope of 50 years of communism from around our necks," said Elmaz Kuri, a retired army officer from the grim northern chromium-mining town of Kukës. "We will take up arms for him, we will go to the middle of Tirana to defend him."

It was a wedding day, and the Kalashnikovs in the Tira-

na suburb of Bathorne were unusually active. Against the din of gunfire and gypsy music, the people were quick to gather, settling in the harsh sun on a variety of armchairs and stools outside the house of Mr Kuri's brother, Mahmud, the local Kryepiak or leader.

"We don't have anything against the South but they must do as the Government says and put down their guns. The state is the state, and if the President was really applying the law we would have war. He is being very tolerant," he explained to nods of approval from young and old.

A visit to Bathorne quickly dispels any notion of there being room to negotiate with

southern rebels over the President's resignation. There are 22,000 people in these sprawling settlements that cloak the northern outskirts of Tirana: people driven out of their homes near the Serbian border by dire poverty and a disastrous reservoir project inspired by the former Communist leader, Enver Hoxha. President Berisha's village of Tropoje is in their heartland, and his is the only voice to be trusted.

Albania is a clanish country where politics in the North is a question of sticking with who you know. President Berisha is the man of these highland people, and those who question his rule are part

of a Communist, American and media-inspired plot. "The big powers and USA have always tried to split Albania," said Mahmud Kuri. "If it happens, we will fight."

"We are not frightened of these southern bands. There is no other way but to kill them all," Elmaz Kuri said.

A young Shik secret policeman hobbled over, his right leg bandaged. Ahmet Doda had the misfortune to be on duty in the southern town of Vlore during the pyramid riots in January. When the Shik station was attacked by the mob, he was shot while leaping from a second-floor window, and eventually airlifted to safety by helicopter.

## India tracks killer wolves

Rae Bareilly, India: The end is near for the wolves of Rae Bareilly after the animals ate five children and mutilated five others along the banks of the Lone river in northern Uttar Pradesh state (Christopher Thomas writes).

Riflemen are tracking the killer packs in 100 villages. One wolf was shot on Wednesday, but it limped off and escaped. It was the first stroke of luck in a battle of wits with the cunning wolf-packs, which are starving because traditional food sources have all but disappeared. Last year 22 children were killed and 25 injured. Wolves are protected, but the law permits killing them if they prey on people.

## British explorer safe after ordeal in Arctic

BY AMANDA LOOSE

A BRITISH polar explorer has been flown to safety after falling through ice into the Arctic Ocean.

Alan Bywater, 21, a computer studies student from London but now living in Vancouver, Canada, fell through thin ice on the tenth day of his unsupported solo attempt to walk to the North Pole. He arrived at Base Camp in Resolute Bay, in Canada's North-West Territories, late on Saturday night suffering from acute frostbite in his hands and feet.

Mr Bywater said: "I thought on more than one occasion that I would definitely die out

there. I've been incredibly lucky. My left leg went through the ice, and my body, from the waist downwards, suddenly plunged into the ocean."

Despite losing all his equipment, including his radio, Mr Bywater managed to clamber back on to the ice. He spent six hours looking for the tracks of fellow polar explorers David Hempleman-Adams, 40, and Rune Gjeldnes, 25, from Norway, who were also attempting an unsupported walk to the North Pole. "I knew it was my only chance of survival," he said, describing the relief when he saw their tent.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

**SUPERMAN MBE**  
Martin Offiah's double life in rugby  
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**SILVER LINING**  
Paula Radcliffe runs into the medals in Turin  
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**SIX APPEAL**  
Italy make the case for European union  
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**TEE OFF**  
Junior tour attracts huge entry  
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# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 24 1997

## DOCTOR'S ORDERS GIVE HODDLE A HEADACHE

**OUT: David Seaman**  
(Arsenal) Recovering from his third injury of the season, this time a knee

**OUT: Gary Neville**  
(Man Utd) Played with a painkilling injection in Oporto; ankle ligament damage

**OUT: Gary Pallister**  
(Man Utd) Perennial back problems; now a groin injury

**OUT: Stuart Pearce**  
(Nottingham Forest) Fit as a 34-year-old can be, but busy managing his struggling team

**OUT: Darron Anderson**  
(Tottenham) Eternal problems; an ankle strain

**OUT: David Beckham**  
(Man Utd) Came off nine minutes from time on Saturday; pulled hamstring

**OUT: Paul Gascoigne**  
(Rangers) Ache in plaster; myriad social problems

**OUT: Andy Hinchcliffe**  
(Everton) Recovering from ankle injury

**OUT: Paul Merson**  
(Arsenal) Recovering from a hernia operation

**OUT: Alan Shearer**  
(Newcastle) Three operations on his groin in 18 months

**OUT: Les Ferdinand**  
(Newcastle) Recurring trouble with his hamstring

# Sick notes claim fantasy first eleven

**By ROB HUGHES**  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

OPERATION England versus Mexico at Wembley on Saturday is beginning to resemble the farce of *Carry On Doctor*. Already a complete and recognisable England XI has been withdrawn from the fixture and, yesterday, as the dance between Alex Ferguson and the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, took more twists and turns than any of the wounded players should be asked to attempt this week, it looked curiously close to compromising on the ethics of club versus country.

On Saturday Ferguson had decreed that three of his players, Gary Neville, Gary Pallister and David Beckham, would not subject themselves to the new England rule that, in case players are malingering or being held by their clubs for reasons other than genuine medical infirmity, they must travel down to Bisham Abbey and have their various ailments put under the rule of Dr John Crane. "They will not be going down to join England," insisted Ferguson. "They will remain under our care."

Barely 24 hours later, Ferguson relented in the case of Gary Neville, who had played under United's care with a painkiller injected into his ankle against FC Porto last Wednesday, but had not been fit to perform in the league game at Everton on Saturday.

The deal struck between Ferguson and Hoddle was that if, indeed, Neville proved to have no chance of representing his country, then he would be replaced by his younger brother, Philip, another United player.

A further twist was added when Hoddle invited another United player, David May, 26 and in the form of his life, to step into the shoes vacated by Pallister. Of all the ironies this week, it would be remarkable if May were to win his first cap for England, remembering that his distinction at Old Trafford was to have replaced Steve Bruce, whom many believed to have been the best defender never to have played for his country.

Hoddle will also be watching the match at Highbury between Arsenal and Liverpool tonight with some anxiety. Seven of his squad will be on show: David James, Dominic Matteo, Jamie Redknapp, Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman for Liverpool and Tony Adams and Martin Keown for Arsenal. Hoddle can ill afford any more withdrawals.

In a further development, David Seaman could return for Arsenal after a six-match absence following a knee operation. His recovery came too late for inclusion in Hoddle's squad.

At least David Batty and Robert Lee, who played in Newcastle United's 1-1 draw with Wimbledon at Selhurst Park yesterday afternoon, and Paul Ince, who played for Inter Milan in their 2-1 victory over Parma, were expected to report fit for duty.

The overcrowding of the fixture list, the dire need of clubs to try to nurse players through the crush of the last months of the season, clash with England's desire to fill a blank Saturday with, in essence, a training match.

The day is open for such a game because players from 11 countries are absent from their Premiership clubs for World Cup qualifying matches. Wales play Belgium this weekend. Northern Ireland are at home to Portugal, and Ireland take their English league players to Macedonia.

The problem is global. At a medical symposium held by Uefa, football's European governing body, in Italy earlier this month, 70 sports doctors agreed that footballers are being submitted to almost intolerable loads. Uefa, with its own expanded Champions' League, contributes to that problem, as does Fifa, the world governing body, whose World Cup qualifying games have burgeoned to more than 400 between competing nations and who have, putting politics before the quality or the need for rest among performers, now contrived to have 36 nations in the finals in France in 1998.

Can we wonder that, when the Football Association seeks to inflict high and mighty medical rules on the clubs, rather than offer consultation and co-operation, the likes of Manchester United are inclined to rebel. Ferguson can justifiably claim that his club is on the threshold of doing more to restore England's reputation abroad than the national team.

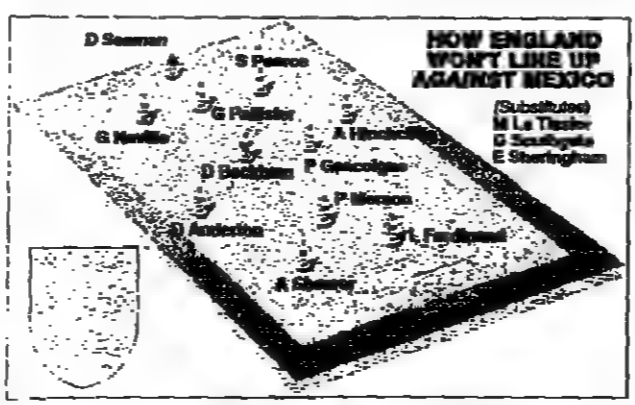
The same, in reverse, applies to Southampton. They stand timorously on the brink of relegation. Matthew le Tissier is the man whose goals have saved them in the past. So, when Graeme Souness, the manager seeking to keep the South Coast club afloat in the Premiership on gates of 15,000, clashes swords with Hoddle, there should be some understanding.

Le Tissier, claim Southampton, has foot and groin injuries. It sounds like a new epidemic. But should le Tissier be pressed into service and then exacerbate his injuries, Southampton might lose him for the season and be relegated. We might well then see a High Court claim for a portion of the £15 million loss that Premiership status is estimated to be worth to a club each season. The chairman of the FA, Keith Wiseman, happens to be on the board of Southampton FC.

These are complex and emotive issues in the club versus country tug of war that has stretched some players to breaking point. Le Tissier himself commented at the weekend: "I won't be fully fit (for England) and you saw what happens if you play when you're not fit." He was referring to Alan Shearer, coming back too soon for Euro 96, and attempting to run through injury against Italy this year. He might have added the name of Jamie Redknapp who, twice injured on England duty, has lost the better part of a season for Liverpool, the club that pays his wages.

To the team above, one might add Gareth Southgate, Teddy Sheringham and Tony Adams, who are all likely to attend Dr Crane's surgery, sicknotes in hand.

Hoddle's need for a work-out, for an England team bearing some resemblance to an authentic unit for World Cup matches to come, runs contrary to the club campaigns. Hoddle is a man of faith, indeed he has indulged in faith healing to cure injuries of his own. But where money, ethics, and the growth of fixtures collide, not even a faith healer can solve the insoluble.



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# World Cup finds ITV at sixes and sevens

There's a lot of the amber nectar going down in those stands. Of course there was, this was the Rugby World Cup sevens in Hong Kong, but this was still a notable remark for at least two reasons.

First, because it was possibly the first time that rugby cliché uttered by Nick Farr-Jones, a man whose eloquent contributions to the BBC's five nations' championship coverage — all drift defences and gain lines — are limited only by the minor handicap of having been born an Australian. Second, because he was making the comments on Eurosport, the pan-European satellite channel.

Signing up Farr-Jones signalled the seriousness of the satellite channel's intent to provide a real alternative to the rather half-hearted cover-

age being provided by ITV, the terrestrial rights-holder. By the time ITV's live coverage got properly underway yesterday morning (on Friday it settled for late-night highlights, while on Saturday, extended highlights went out — more understandably — against *Grandstand*) the Eurosport trio of Mike Wedderburn, Paul Dickenson and Farr-Jones were into their third morning of mixing up live and delayed coverage.

And very enjoyable it was too, although it was a shame that having signed up such a relaxed and knowledgeable team of commentators, little thought seemed to have gone into making the on-screen pictures look good. Eurosport's own graphics were messily superimposed on top of those provided by the host broadcaster and, more seri-



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

ously, play (even of the recorded and presumably haltless variety) was regularly lost to advertising breaks.

Given the marathon nature of the Eurosport commentary effort, it seems churlish to focus on the occasional slip. But one fell so painfully into the "there but for the grace of God..." category that it will stay in the memories of those who heard it forever.

Saturday morning, South Africa were playing Hong Kong, the cameras had lingered on South Africa's rain-

bow-shirted supporters and Farr-Jones had gone into full white liberal, isn't it good for South Africa, isn't it good for rugby mode. Ten seconds later he very confidently misidentified one of the two black players then on the field for the Springbok seven. The silence that followed was short but significant.

Actually Nick... began Wedderburn, who — as Harlequin fans will know, but Eurosport viewers may not — is black. The silence that followed that gentle correction

was a little longer, far more painful and only really ended when Wedderburn himself (deliberately or accidentally, who knows?) made exactly the same mistake himself.

ITV's problems, meanwhile, were of a different sort. While the Eurosport team were commenting off monitors in Paris, ITV — very properly — were on site with the better elements of their 15-a-side World Cup team. John Taylor teamed up with Steve Smith to their customary good effect, while Bob Simmons partnered Jonah Lomu — a tad less successfully.

The real problems, however (apart from England being knocked out before either broadcaster was on air) started when Lomu returned to the presentation studio and Jim Rosenthal.

nisable from the man who made such a professional job of the Australian Grand Prix two weeks ago. He was completely in awe of Lomu, unable to string together anything resembling a coherent question.

But if you thought that exchange was painful, you really had to hear the interview with Mrs and Mrs Lomu conducted by a female "reporter" whose name I did not catch. Displaying a technique that made Louise Goodman, ITV's new pit-lane reporter, look like Jeremy Faxman, the Lomus were asked the sort of books they enjoyed reading, whether they planned to have any children in the future and — having been firmly rebuffed on that point — whether they had any plans at all?

Thank heavens the final was good.

GOLF: SPANIARD WINS IN STYLE ON HOME SOIL TO COMPLETE LONG WALK BACK TO UPPER REACHES OF SPORT

## Olazabal's feat underlines quality of return

FROM MEL WEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

AN ODYSSEY of misery and pain so severe that at one time he must have wondered if he would ever hit a golf ball in anger again ended in exultation for José María Olazabal yesterday when he capped a tumultuous return to the game by winning on only his third comeback appearance.

Olazabal, 31, took the Turespaña Masters and nearly £62,000 here at Maspalomas with a final, flawless round of 67 and a total of 212, 20 under par. He took the title by two strokes from Lee Westwood, with Paul Broadhurst and Eduardo Romero a further shot back. The Englishman and the Argentinian played fine golf in the sun-soaked Canary Islands, but for the sake of the PGA European Tour, for the Royal and Ancient game as a whole but, most of all, for Olazabal himself, it was a day for undiluted celebration.

Nobody could have guessed when the Spaniard won the Volvo PGA Championship in May 1994, that it would be 24 months before he would again walk into the winner's circle with that characteristic flat-footed gait of his. It had been his fear, indeed, that had kept him out of tournament golf for those long months and years of inactivity, doubt and agony. The rest of the golfing world can guess, but only he knows

what this performance means to him.

He gave the barest clue to the depth of his despair and the height of his joy in a press conference that was tinged with tears and emotion. "When the moment came when I knew I was going to win, many thoughts came to my mind," he said. "I thought of the heartbreaking times when I thought I would not be able to play again. I never

### FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

272: J.M. Olazabal (Sp) 70, 67, 68, 67, 272; P. Broadhurst (En) 72, 67, 69, 68; S. Romero (Arg) 70, 67, 69, 67; D. Gifford (En) 69, 70, 68, 69; J. Caceres (Arg) 67, 71, 66, 74; 278: D. Bormo (Sp) 70, 72, 68, 68; 279: I. Garrido (Sp) 70, 71, 71, 67; I. Felle (Sp) 73, 69, 70, 67; R. Goosen (SA) 69, 71, 69, 70; 280: I. Gaspull (En) 70, 69, 68, 68; 281: J. Henshaw (En) 71, 71, 69, 69; P. Mitchell (En) 73, 69, 70, 69; D. Horsfield (Sp) 71, 71, 68, 70; M. Forni (It) 72, 69, 69, 71; 281: A. Saravali (En) 71, 67, 72, 71; C. Oates (En) 74, 64, 70, 73; 282: D. Chopra (En) 71, 73, 70, 68; F. Cox (Sp) 71, 71, 70, 70.

thought I could do this so quickly. This was a very difficult moment and very special for me."

It was somehow symbolic that he enjoyed his moment of triumph on Spanish soil and in front of his own people. The golfers of Spain and oceans beyond had been through his purgatory with him: a great

surge of goodwill flowed in his direction from the four winds last night.

It seems hardly conceivable that Olazabal could possibly become this competitive this soon after returning to the game in the Dubai Desert Classic last month. He was well there, and his performance was enough for him to be named player of the month. If only the members of the Fourth Estate who voted for him then had known what was to come. Surely, they need do no more than play a reprise of their debate when they deliberate on the award for March.

Olazabal has been playing his prospects in a minor key this last month, even after finishing fourth in the Portuguese Open last week. He was not comfortable over the ball, he said repeatedly, he was still suffering with his feet, he was not happy off the tee, he needed to become more consistent before he could even begin to think of winning. He was, perhaps, right; he had, literally, to walk before he could think of breaking into a trot, let alone run.

In spite of his protestations, it had been obvious since that performance in Dubai that he had timed his return almost to perfection. He did not want to come back before he could be a contender, his pride would not allow him to do that. How effective he was is now clear — it has taken him only 216 holes of golf to achieve his shoneen PGA European Tour victory.

Olazabal started the day two strokes behind Westwood and José Caceres, but he led the field after playing only four holes, two of which he birdied, while Westwood dropped a shot when he hit his second shot into a palm tree at the 4th. This, if ever there was one, was the defining moment of this last round. It was the first time Olazabal had led since his return and he was never again to be headed.

Olazabal picked up a further shot at the 6th with a 25-foot putt. What put him two ahead of the field. Two more birdies coming home completed a faultless round of six birdies.

He may not be in perfect shape yet; he insists he is not. With the US Masters only three weeks off, he has to sharpen his game off the tee, and he recognises the fact. For the moment, this was good enough. It was victory; and victory, when the alternative only last summer might have been a wheelchair, was precious indeed.



Olazabal drives off the 17th on his way to victory in the Turespaña Masters yesterday

## Davies casts long shadow

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

KELLY ROBBINS and Barb Mucha, the two Americans who were leading the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley by one shot after three rounds, knew that they would not be the centre of attention when the final round began yesterday. The champion of choice was Laura Davies and anyone else would be a party-pooper.

Robbins, a United States Solheim Cup player who won the Diet Dr Pepper National Pro-Am this year, understood the partisanship. "It's kinda neat to see Laura play so well, year after year, here," she said. "I won't be ignoring her — I'll be watching the leaderboards like I usually do. I like to know what's going on."

Davies, the world No 1, was aiming to win the event for the fourth successive year to put her in the record books alongside the legendary Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen. Davies had six birdies in a round of 70, three under par, on Saturday, for a total of 209, level with Karrie Webb, the Australian who won the United States money-list last year. They were one behind Rob-

bins, who dropped two shots when she drove out of bounds at the 17th, and Mucha. "I've a chance, so I'm happy," Davies said. "All I wanted was to be in a position to challenge on Sunday. To win four in a row is something to go for and on the first tee on the first day that's as nervous as I've been."

### DETAILS

United States unless stated  
LEADING AFTER THREE ROUNDS: 209: B. Mucha (En), 70, 73, K. Robbins (En), 68, 73; 208: F. Wood (Aus), 71, 68, 70; L. Davies (GB), 70, 69, 70; 210: D. Con-Jones (Can), 69, 70, 74; 211: L. Brower (En), 72, 70, 64; 212: M. Reed (En), 70, 73, 69; 213: M. Lunn (En), 69, 74, 69; 214: B. Hogen (En), 72, 73, 67; 215: J. Tschetter (En), 69, 68, 74; K. Wiley (En), 68, 75, 67; 216: J. Gledhill (En), 72, 72, 65; C. Hall (En), 74, 68; J. Mackay (En), 72, 71, 70; 217: A. Benet (En), 73, 73; C. Figg-Carter (En), 70, 69, 74; 218: M. Hiron (En), 72, 70, 72; 219: C. Sorenstam (En), 70, 71, 68; 220: K. Marshall (En), 74, 71, 73.

The course measures 6,435 yards, the longest on the LPGA (Ladies') Professional Golf Association circuit, but it is playing much shorter with temperatures in the mid-nineties, 20 degrees above normal. As Davies put it: "Yardage is out the window."

The world's longest-hitting

woman used her driver only five times in the third round — at the first and third and at three of the four par-fives, the fourth, eighth and tenth. "I think the course is now starting to favour the straight hitters more than the long hitters," she said.

Laidback though she is, there is no doubting Davies's determination here. When she missed the cut in Tucson a week ago, she did not visit Las Vegas for a weekend at the tables, but went to Phoenix to practice. Admittedly, a race track and a dog track were available to keep the inveterate punter occupied, but four in a row is not the only game in town. Davies needs one more win to reach 50 worldwide.

Davies casts a long shadow but it will not have escaped her notice — and should not escape anyone else's — that her compatriot Lisa Hackney and Joanne Morley were handily placed on 213, six under par, and Sweden's Charlotta Sorenstam, another LPGA rookie, was on 215, with Alison Nicholas, after a 68, five under par, on Saturday.

## Macree goes close to springing a surprise

REBECCA MACREE, from Essex, the England No 7, gave Michelle Martin, the world No 2, from Australia, a scare before Martin emerged victorious over five sets in the final of the Cup Olympics women's squash tournament in Antwerp. Macree, 25, lost the opening game 9-4, but then moved into the lead by taking the next two, 10-9, 9-5. Martin, in her last tournament before defending her British Open title, regained her composure, however, to secure victory by taking the last two games, 9-2, 9-3.

Jonathon Power, 22, of Canada, recorded his fourth successive win on the Professional Squash Association world tour in Budapest yesterday when he defeated Peter Nicol, of Scotland, 15-11, 15-13, 15-5 in the final of the Hungarian Open championship.

## Barsby builds big lead

CRICKET: Trevor Barsby defied illness to score a century as Queensland tightened their grip on the Sheffield Shield final in Perth yesterday. Barsby, playing in his hundredth and last Shield match, had an upset stomach before taking the field, but spent more than five hours at the crease in scoring 111. His innings allowed Queensland to reach 259 for six at the close of the third day for a lead of 414.

Earlier, Western Australia's first innings had lasted just another seven balls after they had resumed at 164 for nine. Michael Kasprovic, the former Australia pace bowler, took the wicket of Bret Mulder for Western Australia to be all out for 165. Queensland must win the five-day match to capture the Shield title while Western Australia need only avoid defeat because of their higher end-of-season finish.

## Leander retain title

ROWING: Leander, with Steve Redgrave, right, at No 7 and Matthew Pinsent at stroke, retained the Head of the River title on Saturday, but their winning margin was not as great as many people had expected. They completed the Mortlake to Putney course in 17min 28sec to win by 7sec from London University, with London 1 third, a further 4sec adrift.



## Morgan secures victory

BOWLS: Russell Morgan, from the East Dorset club, in Christchurch, won the Warners All-England champion of champions singles title at Bembridge, on the Isle of Wight, yesterday, beating Paul Bennett, of Bodmin, 21-6 in a disappointingly one-sided final. Bennett was never in the hunt, as Morgan motored into a 15-1 lead after eight ends and was 20-4 ahead after 13.

## Hayles still unbeaten

CYCLING: Rob Hayles remains unbeaten in the Ambrosia Premier Calendar 16-race series thanks to another success, in the 100-kilometre event at the Banksway circuit, in London, on Saturday. A dangerous-looking group of ten escaped after 13 kilometres before Hayles closed the gap, built a ten-second lead of his own and then held off a spirited challenge from John Tanner on the final bend.

## Dark Blue triumph

GOLF: Oxford continued their impressive run of victories in the University match with a comfortable weekend victory over Cambridge at Royal St George's, Sandwich. Having won the foursomes by 3½-1½, Oxford took the singles by 7½-2½. James Fletcher and Omar Malik, the captain, were the only singles winners for Cambridge, who went down to their sixth successive defeat.

## Fast start for McRae

MOTOR RALLYING: Colin McRae, of Great Britain, right, and Carlos Salas, of Spain, shared the lead in the Portuguese rally after the opening stage yesterday. Both drivers were timed at 1min 01sec over a prologue reduced to 1.7 kilometres after claims that the full course was dangerous. McRae, driving a Subaru, leads the world championship after three rounds.



## Champion disqualified

BOXING: Roy Jones lost his World Boxing Council lightweight title on Friday when he was disqualified for hitting Monty Griffin while he was kneeling at Atlantic City, New Jersey. It was Jones's first loss in 34 bouts. Jones had put Griffin down in the ninth round and then hit him twice when he got to a knee. Tony Perez, the referee, then counted Griffin out, but he was later awarded the bout.

## Browne takes over

CRICKET: Jimmy Adams and Junior Murray have been dropped by West Indies for the third Test against India at the Kensington Oval, starting on Thursday. Courtney Browne will take over from Murray behind the stumps. Ian Bishop, who pulled out of the second Test because of injury, has also been included. Mervyn Dillon, who replaced Bishop, keeps his place in the 13-man squad.

TENNIS: EARLY DEFEAT FOR BRITAIN'S NO 1 SUGGESTS PROLONGED REST MAY BE NEEDED TO CURE PERSISTENT INJURY

## Davis Cup prospects hang on Henman's elbow

FROM ALIX RAMSAY  
IN KEY DISCUSSION, FLORIDA

TIM HENMAN is leaving Florida rather earlier than expected, taking with him many of Great Britain's hopes of progressing in the Davis Cup. On Saturday he was beaten in the second round of the Lipton championships by Julian Alonso, another of Spain's armada of promising newcomers, 7-6, 6-2, 6-3.

It was Henman's first match since the end of February and proved that the elbow injury that he has been protecting for the past fortnight is still nowhere near cured.

Quite what is wrong with Henman's elbow remains unclear. Bill Norris, the ATP Tour trainer, described it as "a slight degenerative problem. The elbow is put together in

a strange way", but Norris seems confident that "we'll get him right". Henman, on the other hand, describes the cause of the problem as "a loose body" within the joint that has flared up sporadically since he was 11 years old.

"Last time it happened, I rested for three weeks and then I was able to start playing again," Henman said. "If that's the case, it doesn't bode well for the Davis Cup. But I think, if I were playing any other tournament next week, then I wouldn't play. But I regard the Davis Cup differently. I'm desperately keen to play."

The immediate plan is to return to England and see what happens. But David Felgate, Henman's coach, seems less than impressed with the idea. Normally Henman and Felgate think and act in tandem, but this time

he wants Henman to listen to his advice. "In my mind it would be an easy decision," he said.

"I don't think he should play until Tokyo, which would give him 3½ weeks' rest. He has to think of his career and not play for his country. Going out there half-cock and losing

### Results

is bad for his morale and doesn't do any good for his ranking, and it lets other people think they can beat him.

Playing the way he was forced to play against Alonso won't do anyone any good in the Davis Cup. His career must come first. This kid, with no experience, has worked out that Tim has a problem. What is some-

body with Byron Black's experience and game going to make of it all?

Alonso, still only 19, with a big first service, a considerable amount of muscle and very few nerves, made Henman look very average on Saturday. He had never won a match on the tour at this level until this week and now he finds himself in the third round. Not bad for a man who only took up tennis as a child in order to lose some weight.

Rather more worryingly for Henman, he was unable to serve flat out, and once he realised he could not impose his game on Alonso, he seemed to lose the will to fight. "It probably wasn't the smartest thing to do, to play today," he said.

With Greg Rusedski still plagued by a wrist injury, David Lloyd's list of walking wounded is growing at an

alarming rate. The fanfares and hurrahs surrounding the much publicised resurgence of British tennis could well be silenced come next week, when the Lawn Tennis Association's new model army is shown to be too strong and neither of them are available to play.

Still, such problems are not restricted to British shores. Boris Becker withdrew from the tournament on Saturday without hitting a ball having decided that his wrist still was not strong enough to risk in a match. As for Andre Agassi, he would be happy if his career could reach the dizzy height of the doldrums having lost miserably to Scott Draper, from Australia, 7-6, 6-1. The former world No 1 has now failed to win a set, much less a match, in his past four tournaments.

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HULLERSFIELD	188 851	SWINSON	188 821
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Judges put technical competence before artistry in world championships

## Lipinski leaves behind hollow impression

FROM SIMON BARNES IN LAUSANNE

THE Frenchwoman chose the circus as her theme, and skated the big top with all she possessed. But the American skated the freak show from the fairground next door and stole the judge's hearts.

The name of the geek is Tara Lipinski, 14 going on ten. On Saturday she crowned a prepubescent little girl as women's world champion figure skater. She stood on the podium, grinning goofily — "I'm still in shock," she kept saying unendingly — all 4ft 8in and 5½ stone of her.

Odd sight: the medal podium, naturally, was in three stages, but all three heads were more or less on a level. It was, perhaps, the crowning absurdity of a peculiar but enthralling afternoon.

Sport is a bitch goddess, we all know that. But if you seek the real viciousness of caprice, then ice skating is the queen of them all. This is a fact of life in all the subjectively judged sports, from dressage to trampolining, but skating has a killer factor that no other sport can rival.

This is "artistic impression". Well, I don't know much about art, but I know a damn sight more than any skating judge, at least on Saturday's evidence. Michelle Kwan, the American who finished second, might well be thinking the same thing.

Kwan was the defending champion. She is now 16, and has trained on from last year. Precocious talent has been transposed into grace. No longer a little girl, she is at least half a woman and certainly all teenager. She has learnt a good deal about art and a lot about worry. In a year, she has learnt self-doubt, as any angst-ridden teenager must.

But not Lipinski. She has yet to reach such a stage in her life. She skated like a whirling automaton. She is stunningly competent; there is not an ounce of dispute in that matter. But then, she has a huge advantage: the alliance of her precocious talent and her freakish size.

It is this combination that allows her to spin with such extraordinary rapidity. For that reason, there is no call for her to jump terribly high. In fact, when she performs a triple, you would still find it difficult to slide the *Journal de Genève* beneath her skates.

Her thinness also makes her landings much safer. The heavier you are, the greater your momentum and the further you skid. Skating is always a sport that favours the compactly built, but this is ridiculous.

With most things in sport, there is a trade-off. Every advantage is also a disadvantage. The super-tall goal-

keeper has a huge advantage on crosses, but is vulnerable to the short-range grubber. The massive ball-winning rugby forward has no speed. And so on.

In skating, the very short skater has the advantages mentioned, but can never look truly elegant. With Lipinski, the trade-off of her virtuosity is in grace: in artistry, if you like. And yet she was not penalised for this. The judges faked it.

Infant prodigies are an uncomfortable phenomenon. You find them in chess, mathematics and music: something to do with pattern recognition. Perhaps these freaks are most worrying in music. A child



'Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet'

may be able to play *The Goldberg Variations*, but that does not make him Glenn Gould.

And that is Lipinski for you: she is just playing the notes. Terribly well. Dazzlingly well. But, for the moment, she is just the skating equivalent of a human piano. Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet. Or even started looking.

That is what is so endearing about Kwan. There is no more earnest seeker in the world than the teenager in search of her soul. I mean, like, what is the meaning of life? No thoughts on that matter, or on any other, from Lipinski. She was still in shock.

Kwan was in fourth place going into the free programme and knew that she would have to skate as she has never skated before to win. She had undergone a nightmare of tumbles in the United States national championships, and began

her short programme here with another fall. Angst had undone her.

Begone dull care. So she thought about, like, life, you know, and death. She thought of Scott Hamilton, the great American skater who has just been diagnosed as suffering from testicular cancer. "I realised I'd been focused on the wrong thing," Kwan said. "I mean, compared to that, we're lucky just to be here. And we're here to have fun."

And so Kwan skated as if in a dream of beauty, and it was four minutes of pure loveliness, for, despite all the nonsense, this is a lovely sport. And the judges responded as judges should and awarded her their best marks. And so Kwan won the free programme, just as she should have done. And it was not enough.

The final results in skating all come down to the comparative placings of the panel of judges. The last skater was Irina Slutskaya, of Russia, who put up a magnificently dramatic performance, ending up with a showy double *Bellman spin*, skate blade clasped in her hand above her head.

Inexplicably, the judges were unmoved, and Slutskaya finished fourth. This added complication was enough to keep Kwan in second place overall, to philosophise on such matters as life and death, and heat and kitchens.

The anomaly of it all was the extraordinarily high marks that Lipinski received for artistic impression. It was as if the judges believed that someone so technically gifted must be an artist. And it is not true at all. It is as if they thought the *Venus de Milo* was much the same thing as a Barbie doll. The judges acceded to the wishes of the American corporate hunger for teeny heroines.

Thus they have brought discredit upon their sport, and insulted its participants. Why have marks for artistic impression in the first place, if you don't use them to discriminate between artist and freak?

But Kwan knows that, for all this, she had her destiny in her hands, and she let it slip in that initial fall. The jumps are what puts skating into the arena of sporting chance, and you either land them or you don't. Her recovery, though doomed to ultimate failure, was a noble thing. "It's a wonderful feeling," she said, "learning to fly again."

The Winter Olympics are just 11 months away, and Lipinski, aka "the Robotic Shrimp", is now in pole position. No doubt she will be a millionaire by the time the torch is lit in Japan. She might even have started to look for her soul. It is time that her sport did the same thing.



Lipinski in action during her free programme, which lacked the grace shown by Kwan, her rival

## SKIING

## Britain in danger of missing out on Ormond potential

FROM SIMON WILDE IN TIGNES, FRANCE

NOW that Tim Henman has made British tennis respectable, there are precious few sports left to us for self-mockery. So, thank goodness for skiing, we all say. There is a sport that we will never be good at; it is not in our genes to be. Leave it to the French and the Austrians.

Er, wrong. Actually, Great Britain does possess a brilliant teenage skier who could well reach the top. Her name is Sophie Ormond, she is 17 years old and ranked in the world's top ten for her age-group. By all accounts, she is extremely promising. She may be living proof that, biologically, there is still no reason why a Briton cannot be among the best skiers in the world.

That is what those close to the British Alpine team have said for years. Their argument is that skiing is a sport in which competitors are commonly separated by mere fractions of seconds: the difference, say, between one kind of ski and another, or between back-up staff who have enough time to study every twist and turn of a race course and those who do not. With better funding, they say, British skiers can make those fractions disappear.

Here, though, is the rub: because, as the striving to remove those fractions goes on, Ormond may be unwilling to remain British much longer. Ormond, you see, has a choice: although her parents are British, they have long

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lived on the Continent. She was born in Switzerland and resides near Annecy.

Her genes may be British, but she is, by her own admission, half French. Many of her mannerisms are English, but she speaks in French to her elder brother, James, who also skies for Britain and expects to continue doing so. Sophie is less sure. She has been nurtured by the French ski system since the age of nine and identifies that as the reason why she is as good as she is. She also knows that it can better help her to push for the highest summits.

"I have skied with Britain for the juniors and at the world championships and am grateful for what they have done," she said in Tignes, where she finished overall joint-second in the British Land British championships.

"But I cannot get a sponsor and don't know how to go about it. I don't even feel there is anyone who can help me. I have been with them two years and have not found a sponsor in that time, so why should it happen now?"

"I would like to go with Britain, but it would be much easier with the French. They have the coaches, the back-up staff and the training camps. Everything is the best and it is all paid for. With the French, I believe I can make it to the top. My French coach, Michel Boyer, has been really good about it. He just tells me to do the best for myself."

Doing that, though, will almost certainly mean Ormond taking up French citizenship. For the want of proper financial support, Britain's brightest talent for years will slip through the net.

## BOXING

## Brodie can aim high after defeat of Swain

BY SRIKUMAR SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL BRODIE proved himself one of the most exciting prospects in Great Britain on Saturday. Brodie, 22, from Manchester, was only just beginning to come out of the six-round stage when he found himself facing Neil Swain, of Wales, the Commonwealth champion and one of the toughest men in the British super bantamweight division, at the Wythenshawe Forum.

Although Brodie has a punch to get himself out of trouble and is a gifted boxer, it was thought that the decision to go for the vacant British title might have been made too early. Even Jack Trickett, his manager, wanted to have a few more bouts before taking on Swain.

Sure enough, Brodie found himself in a brutal encounter that must be a contender for bout of the year. It ended in the tenth with Brodie pulling out a right that knocked out Swain. He was out for a good two minutes and ring officials were beginning to get concerned when he suddenly recovered. Brodie, too, received his share of lumps and bumps, and twice almost got into serious trouble.

Anyone without genuine potential would not have been able to withstand the violence that Swain unleashed on the youngster from the first bell and the unrelenting pace at which the bout was contested. Brodie is definitely one to watch. With judicious matchmaking and clever promotion, he could go all the way.

Trickett said: "That was a very hard fight that wants some getting over. I did not want to take it until he had had a couple of eight or ten-rounders first."

Trickett now expects Brodie to defend his British title, to try to win a Lonsdale Belt outright, and perhaps challenge for the European title if a suitable opening presents itself.

## ATHLETICS: BRITISH DISTANCE RUNNER PREVENTS AFRICAN CLEAN SWEEP IN WORLD CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Radcliffe provides Europe with silver lining

FROM DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN TURIN

AMID the customary African dominance of the world cross country championships, Paula Radcliffe, from Bedford, struck a small blow for Europe here yesterday when she took the silver medal in the senior women's race. Briefly, it looked as though Radcliffe would win, but Deratu Tulu, from Ethiopia, stole past her in the finishing sprint to regain the title lost last season when a shoe came off.

In four races, Radcliffe was the only athlete from outside Africa to win an individual medal. As you might expect from a young woman who strives for perfection in everything she does — she is a former junior world champion and, as a student, achieved four A-grade A levels and a first class degree — her first reaction was one of regret. "I was a little bit disappointed

straightaway, because I thought I had it won," Radcliffe said.

However, the more she thought about it, the better she felt. Bearing in mind that she had not finished higher than eighteenth in three previous attempts, that no Briton had come as close since Liz McColgan in 1987, and that this is the most competitive women's foot race of all, it was an outstanding effort. Like McColgan, when Annette Sargent, of France, was champion, Radcliffe was only two seconds behind.

Radcliffe, 23, was well-positioned throughout and, with a kilometre of the 6,700 metres to run, was one of five in contention. The others were Tulu and her countrywoman, Gete Wami, the defending champion. Sally Barsosio, from Kenya, and Julia Vaqueiro, from Spain, Wami was first to break, but Radcliffe responded and hit the front 400 metres out.

However, with less than 100 metres to run, Tulu picked up her speed and Radcliffe, though she did not slow, was unable to raise hers. "I knew I had Wami beaten, but I did not realise Tulu was still there," Radcliffe said. Tulu recorded 20min 53sec, Radcliffe 20min 55sec and Wami 21min 00sec for third.

"You always think, after the race, that you might have been able to go a bit quicker, but I was going as hard as I could," Radcliffe said. "The standard is so high. I have to be pleased." It had been a good omen, after all, she concluded, that a pigeon had messed on her father's head just before the start.



Radcliffe strides towards her silver medal in Turin

Again, though, it is a story of a British arrow just outside the bullseye. Since Jonathan Edwards won his triple jump gold medal in Gothenburg in 1995, British athletes have taken 12 silver medals at global championships, but no gold. Perhaps Radcliffe can find the centre at 5,000 metres in Athens this summer. "This gives me something to build on," she said.

Her most notable achievement as a senior until yesterday was breaking Zola Budd's 5,000 metres British record and she is hopeful of improving it further. Eventually, she will move up to 10,000 metres, perhaps experimenting with one this year and racing over the distance at the 1998 Commonwealth Games, but she sees herself mainly as a 5,000 metres runner for a few years.

This was the first time since joining the senior ranks that she had enjoyed preparation unrestricted by illness or injury. Eight weeks' good training,

a month at altitude and no racing for six weeks had brought her to the Parco del Valentino in formidable condition.

Behind Ethiopia and Kenya, Ireland, led by Catherine McKiernan in seventh place, took the team bronze medal. Britain were one runner short of a medal-winning squad. Lucy Elliott was eighth and Hayley Haining 22nd, but without another top 50 runner, they had to settle for fourth.

Paul Tergat won his third successive senior men's title, leading Kenya to their twelfth consecutive team victory. Jon Brown, the leading Briton, was fourteenth and Glyn Tromans, on his British debut ten months after a second heart operation, 159th. Kenya swept the junior board, winning the men's and women's individual and team gold medals.

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## EQUESTRIANISM: RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES RESTRICTS OVERSEAS RIDERS

## Top horses ruled out of Badminton

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

SEVERAL of the world's top horses will miss the Badminton Horse Trials, the world's leading three-day event, in May, after an announcement yesterday that each overseas rider will be allowed to ride only one horse. British riders may ride two.

The ruling follows a record 151 entries for the event. Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the Olympic champion, and Mark Todd, a dual Olympic gold medal-winner, are among leading riders who will have to choose which of their top horses to run.

Todd, who was competing at the Land-Rover Gatcombe Horse Trials yesterday, where he finished third on Kayem — one of his three Badminton entries — condemned the decision. "If the event wants to be the premier in the world, it should employ a ranking system like any other top sporting event," he said.

"Wimbledon doesn't say that Boris Becker can't play because a British player ranked No 364 has to."

Tait, who will have to choose between Chesterfield, a team bronze medal-winner in Atlanta, and Aspyring, the runner-up at the Pratoni event in Italy last year, shared his view. "It will be disappointing for the general public at Badminton who expect to see the

best available talent," he said. "Instead, they will be seeing the best riders with one horse — along with Samantha Clapham — along with the road."

Both riders are also concerned about the effect that the ruling will have on the world rider rankings, which allocates more points for a win at Badminton than other events. "It will give the Britons who are allowed two horses an unfair advantage," Tait, the leading rider last season, said.

Hugh Thomas, the director of Badminton, admitted that it was "very sad" that a number of qualified horses would be turned away, but said that, with a maximum of 80 starting places, it seemed the fairest decision. "For the future, we have obviously got to work out a different way of doing things," he said.

Meanwhile, Rodney Powell, the winner of Badminton in 1991, had little to complain about at Gatcombe yesterday.



Todd: condemned move

## SNOOKER

## Morgan holds up Hendry

FROM PHIL YATES IN CO KILDARE

STEPHEN HENDRY surprisingly struggled to shake off Darren Morgan, the titleholder, in the opening session of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters final at Goffs here yesterday as he established a slender 4-3 advantage.

Hendry, attempting to win his fifth event this season, and improve his already overwhelming record against Morgan to 14 victories from 15 meetings, threatened to dominate as he aggregated 265 points without reply in building a 3-0 lead.

Hendry, successful in ten consecutive finals since being edged 9-8 by Peter Ebdon in the climax to the 1995 Irish Masters, had runs of 116 — his 34th century break of the 1996-97 campaign — and 96 before Morgan dug in his heels.

Fortune smiled on Morgan in the fourth frame when Hendry, leading 30-0, went in-

off after potting a red from distance. Morgan capitalised with an 82 clearance and then accounted for the fifth frame with a century break.

Hendry's hopes of lifting his 64th trophy were bolstered by contributions of 41 and 79, which paved the way for a 4-2 lead, but Morgan, whose greatest asset is a stubborn streak, remained in contention by comfortably prevailing in the closing frame of the afternoon.

That left Hendry requiring five of the ten frames scheduled last night to collect the £72,000 first prize and provide additional evidence that, with the Embassy world championship at Sheffield fast approaching, he is still the man to beat.

Hendry ensured his participation in the eighth final of his 12-year professional career by defeating Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-2 in the semi-

finals on Saturday, while Morgan unexpectedly overcame Ebdon, the winner of the Thailand Open last week, by the same score.

"That was a bit more like the real Stephen Hendry," Hendry, who constructed breaks of 71, 83, 81 and 91 in beating O'Sullivan, said. "That's the best I've played since I beat Ronnie [O'Sullivan] in the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge final in January."

Hendry, who has been seeded to meet O'Sullivan in the world championship quarter-finals, added: "Over the past couple of months, I haven't really met the standards I set myself, even though I have won a couple of tournaments. This was much more encouraging."

RESULTS: Quarter-final: D. Morgan (Wales) 6-1 P. Ebdon (Eng); Semi-finals: S. Hendry (Scot) 6-2 R. O'Sullivan (Eng); 6-2: Morgan 6-1 P. Ebdon (Eng) 6-2: Final: Hendry leads Morgan 4-3



FOOTBALL: COLOMBIAN'S SUBLIME FREE KICK RESCUES POINT FOR IMPOVERISHED NEWCASTLE AT SELHURST PARK

## Asprilla's artistry colours drab spectacle

Wimbledon ..... 1  
Newcastle United ..... 1By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

POVERTY comes in many disguises. In the FA Carling Premiership, Newcastle United, as rich as they come, and Wimbledon, who make silk purses out of sow's ears, are both suffering in the final furlong as they try to ensure the Uefa Cup place that they feel their season demands.

Wimbledon had won but once in 11 League matches; Newcastle were on the rebound from defeat in Monaco, where Sir John Hall, their club chairman and paymaster, had reportedly said that his players should be ashamed of themselves.

It showed, on both sides. Wimbledon, with a small squad and playing for the tenth time in 22 days, were

Results and tables ..... 30  
Palace power ..... 31  
Scottish commentary ..... 31

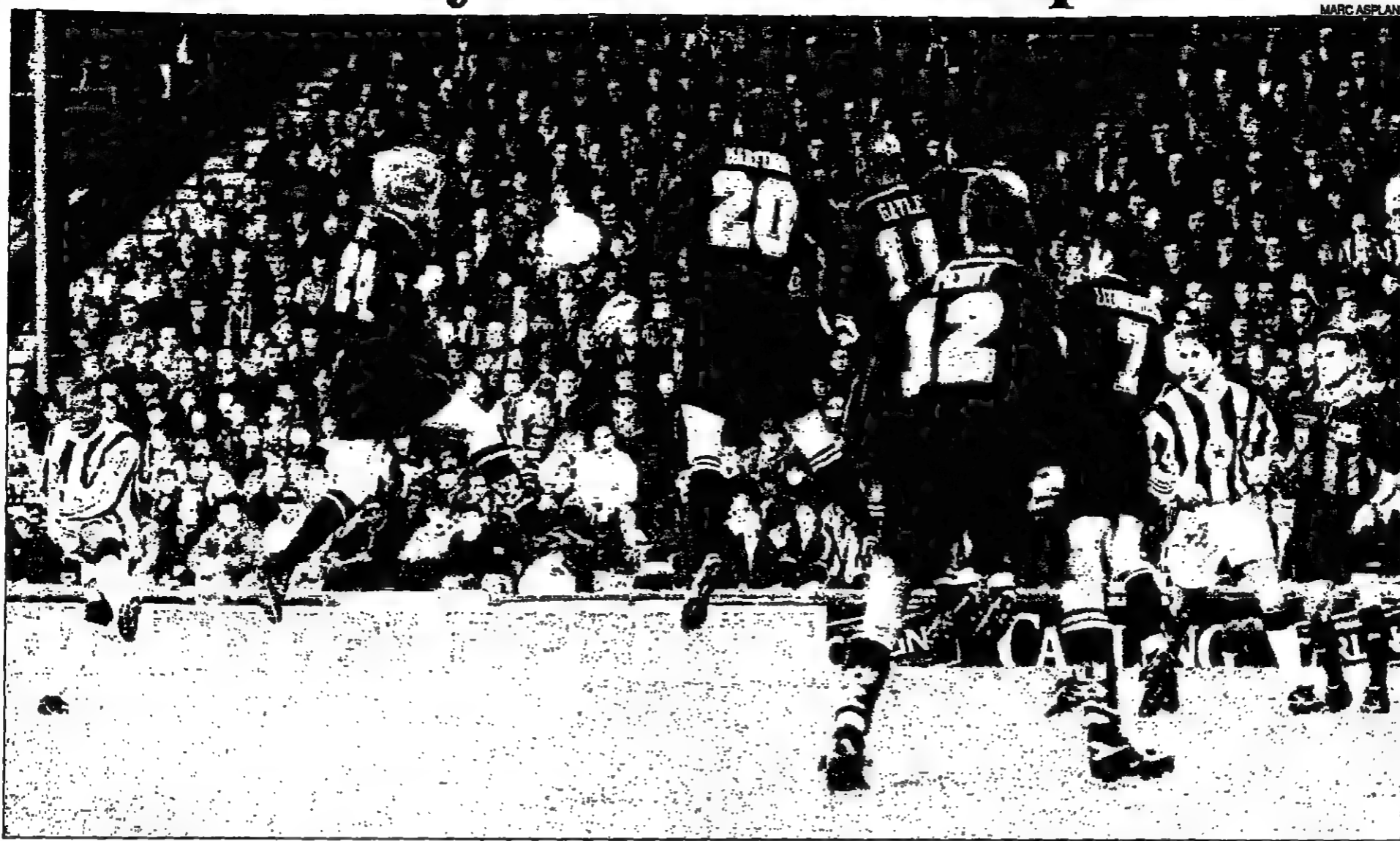
weary. Newcastle, without Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand, were shadows of the cavaliers who began the season under Kevin Keegan.

And yet there was one transcendental moment. It came from Faustino Asprilla, who equalised Oyvind Leonhardsen's first-half strike in the 52nd minute.

Newcastle had won a free kick just outside the penalty box, for a foul on Ginola. It was the position that Shearer so relishes; he would have smashed it with uncompromising British beef past the goalkeeper. Not so Asprilla.

After Elliott had feigned to take the kick, the Colombian sauntered towards the ball and then, cussing it, with just enough power, but almost radar-guided accuracy and swerve, to outwit goalkeeper Neil Sullivan. It was positively graceful; the arc with which Asprilla bent that ball into the Wimbledon net.

How the 7,000 Geordie fans



Asprilla elegantly curls a free kick over the leaping Wimbledon wall for the Newcastle equaliser in the second half of the Premiership encounter at Selhurst Park yesterday

applauded their imported hero, despite two subsequent failures to head a winner. They had little else to celebrate as the zest and the joy which Keegan had invested in this team was, again squashed at source by his successor as manager, Kenny Dalglish.

When a side defends as poorly as do Newcastle, it seems almost criminal to eschew the virtues of attack. Peter Beardsley had wanted to play, and expected to play. Barely an hour before kick-off he talked, with typical enthusiasm, of Newcastle winning the

championship, though he acknowledged that that would entail winning every game.

And then, poor Peter was consigned to the bench. Newcastle were constrained in the 4-5-1 formation that represents the Dalglish method of trying to erase the defensive generosity he inherited. One wanted to shout that it goes against the very nature, that next summer — when, doubtless, Dalglish will wheel and deal a new balance — will be the time to make his mark.

As it was, Newcastle were moribund in the first half, and

Wimbledon were poor. True, Ginola produced one long shot, which was flicked over the bar by Sullivan. True, Ginola was booed at every turn because Cunningham, booked for a late foul on the Frenchman, was outraged by the histrionics of his opponent.

However, few could argue when, in the 28th minute, Wimbledon scored their goal. It typified the inadequacy of the Newcastle defence, and the alertness that Leonhardsen brings at his best.

A free kick had been poorly cleared. Leonhardsen pumped

the ball back in and, when Lee, often Newcastle's most committed player, was challenged by Harford, the ball went spinning to Leonhardsen. From 15 yards, the Norwegian swung his left foot at the ball and, thanks to a late dive from Hislop, the best the goalkeeper could do was help it, one-handed, into the far corner of his goal.

Both Ekoku and Gayle produced deft touches for such swift, counter-attacking strikers. Gayle, who might even be worthy of an England place given the extent of injuries to

others, demonstrated one breathtaking aspect of his touch, hooking the ball gently over the shoulder of Elliott and moving round him to regather it before the defender knew which way to turn. Ekoku too, could turn defenders, indeed, with a flick of the hips, he eluded two of them before crossing the ball for Earle, whose late appearance in the box would have brought the match-winner had Peacock not headed clear from beneath the bar.

Peacock saved another opportunity, but then Peacock is

Peacock, and he gave the ball away to Leonhardsen, whose instant pass offered Holdsworth, the substitute, a chance to claim an FA Cup semi-final place in the team. Holdsworth drove his shot strong and true, but Hislop stretched him to cling on to the ball... and a draw was a fitting end to the affair.

WIMBLEDON (4-5-1): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, D. Blackwell, A. Kinnear — P. Fear, R. Earle, D. Leonhardsen — E. Ekoku, M. Harford, (sub: D. Holdsworth, 61min), M. Gayle.  
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-5-1): S. Haslop — S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Abbott, R. Elliott — K. Gillespie, W. Barton, R. Lee, D. Barry, D. Ginola — F. Asprilla.  
Referee: S. Lodge.

## Redknapp delights in impact of timely arrivals

Coventry City ..... 1  
West Ham United ..... 3

By PAT GIBSON

HARRY REDKNAPP was at his wit's end. It was not just the fact that his West Ham United side could not score goals in the FA Carling Premiership, he could not even see them scoring on the training ground when they were playing against each other.

Then he spent £5.5 million on John Hartson and Paul Kitson, the goals started to come and 11 points from their past six games have not only lifted them out of the bottom three, but also suggested that they may not have to keep going through this sort of thing every season.

"It was an impossible situation," Redknapp said after Hartson, aided and abetted by Kitson, had scored two of the goals that enabled West Ham to put three points and plenty of troubled sky blue water between themselves and Coventry City, who may have gone to the brink once too often.

"I never said it publicly or even to the team," Redknapp said. "But I thought to myself, 'how can I win football matches when I haven't got the players who can score goals?' I knew we could not survive. Once these two arrived, it gave the rest of the players a lift and they started to believe that we could win some games."

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, must wish it was all that simple. He thought he had the players capable of winning games, more than £20 million worth of them, but they are either not listening to what he tells them or, for some reason best known to themselves, choosing to ignore him.

They started well enough. Huckerby leading a series of lightning raids that resulted in Rieper, under pressure from Dublin, heading a Richardson cross into his own goal after eight minutes.

After that, however, they simply lost their way and Hartson and Kitson made them pay. In the 27th minute, Kitson deftly headed on Moncur's cross and Hartson steered it past Ogilvie. Seven minutes later, Kitson again got a vital touch to allow Ferdinand to poke the ball in.

Then, four minutes into the second half, Kitson's shot rebounded to Hartson, who finished with a crisp shot.

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S. Ogilvie — G. Bram, D. Dublin, R. Shaw — P. Teller, G. Hetherington, A. Richardson, P. Williams, M. Hall (sub: P. Nwankwo, 51min) — N. Whelan (sub: B. Bown, 69), D. Hetherington.  
WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L. Milosavljevic — T. Bracken (sub: K. Rowland, 33), S. Potts, S. Mills, M. Raper, J. Doherty — R. Ferdinand (sub: I. Dowds, 88), B. Bishop (sub: H. Portillo, 45), J. Worral — P. Kitson, J. Hartson.  
Referee: M. Reed.

## Limping Le Tissier remains hopeful of another escape

Southampton ..... 2  
Leicester City ..... 2

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

IT IS tough at the bottom. Southampton and Leicester City scratched out a result on Saturday which did not please either manager very much. "Sloppy goals," Matthew Le Tissier called the two Southampton gave away. When the first went in after he had cleared from the line, he kicked a post in frustration.

Would he be fit to play for England against Mexico, given the painful foot and the groin injury? With typically honesty, he replied:

"The way I feel at the moment, I couldn't do myself justice in an international."

After playing only half a game against Chelsea in midweek, Le Tissier stayed on the field for 90 minutes. It was the quicksilver little Israeli, Eyal Berkovic, who surprisingly came off, after 63 minutes. He had been the salient figure of the first half, his ball skills a delight, his passing often inspired. He set up Ostendstad for the low cross shot which put Southampton ahead in the 32nd minute.

The explanation for his substitution by Southampton's worried manager, Graeme Souness, was: "I just thought the game was passing

him by. It was going over his head."

As for Le Tissier: "What we are scared off is that we're going to end up with a Paul Gascoigne situation." Meaning that Le Tissier, in England training, might exacerbate his injuries. Le Tissier himself admitted that by the end of a game his injuries stiffen up. "I struggle. I try to limp through."

Before anxiety set in after half-time, it was Southampton who played the football. Without a home win for three months, they took the game to Leicester. When the frustrated crowd shouted: "Have a shot!" they responded.

But after the interval, came the transformation. "We did better in

the second half," Martin O'Neill, Leicester's manager, said. "A cynic would say we couldn't possibly do any worse. I was just pleased to get something out of it."

The powerful, promising Emile Heskey came to life. As O'Neill said: "When he declares himself fit, he plays." Heskey's attacking partner, Steve Claridge, became more threatening, too.

Both scored goals, of a sort. Stuningly for Southampton, the first one came just a couple of minutes into the second half. Parker took an inswinging left-wing corner, tzzet headed it, confusion followed. Claridge shot. Le Tissier blocked on the line, the ball went in off Heskey.

Another three minutes, however, and Southampton went ahead again from another confusing corner. Le Tissier took it from the right, Van Gool, after a scramble, drove the ball in.

But Southampton had plainly lost the plot. When Heskey, from the right, tacked past Taylor, it took a desperate horizontal block by Neilson to keep the ball out. Heskey, a few minutes later, made space for a shot which Taylor saved.

Then, after 72 minutes, the Southampton goal fell again. Van Gool seemed to have won the ball in a duel with Guppy on the right wing but then lost it again. Guppy found Lennon who surged to the

byline, cut the ball back, and it eventually went into the goal off Claridge.

"We've got to show more bottle", Souness said but Le Tissier, for one, has still not given up hope of a great escape.

"I have immense self-belief, and also draw upon the experience of past years when we've been in equally sticky situations and got out of them."

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M. Taylor — U. van Gool, R. Dwyer, A. Hebest, S. Charlton — J. Magilton, R. Shaw, E. Berkovic (sub: M. Evans, 63min), M. Oakesley — E. Ostendstad (sub: S. Basham, 75), M. Le Tissier.  
LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Poole — P. Kearns (sub: J. Watts, 79), S. Walsh, M. Elliott — M. Toot, N. Lennon, G. Parker (sub: J. Lambrick, 81), S. Guppy, S. Grayson — E. Heskey, S. Claridge.  
Referee: K. Burge.

## Waddle unable to break the mould

Sunderland ..... 1  
Nottingham Forest ..... 1

By RICHARD HOBSON

IT WAS sales time in the Sunderland club shop. Supporters rushed to the stack of discounted merchandise, failing to notice one new item on offer. There, in a corner, stood a row of T-shirts bearing a portrait of the local boy made good, above the words "True Colours". Chris Waddle was coming home.

Roker Park has changed little since Waddle spent some of the happiest days of his boyhood at the Fulwell End. What has evolved is the game. On Saturday, like those T-shirts, Waddle was stranded away from the centre of attention and lost in the chaos around him.

"In the second half we did not get the ball out to Chris often enough," Peter Reid, the manager, said afterwards. Football, like fashion, has its cycles and it was easy to recall the burning issue during Graham Taylor's period as England manager. Even at the age of 36, Waddle might be more effective in a free role rather than as an orthodox winger. As Taylor had many times before him, Reid indicated that the option would be considered, but not with any great enthusiasm.

Sunderland have managed to stay out of the bottom three through lung power. They have jostled, harried and cajoled and woe betide any side, such as Manchester United, that underestimates them.

Waddle was signed to vary the tempo. Thus, he slouched pasty-faced along the left flank as if in need of an oxygen mask; but appearances can

deceive, particularly where Waddle is concerned.

In the 83rd minute he switched to the right to produce his party-piece and it almost secured the victory that his side deserved. Dragging the ball along with his left foot, apparently harmlessly, he dropped his shoulder, accelerated between Roy and Pearce and shot narrowly wide.

Such moments of skill were all too rare on an afternoon full of anxiety. In the first half Bridges, a flowering talent, hit the bar and Van Hooijdonk squandered a good position at the opposite end, yet, when Ball met Waddle's corner with a thundering volley in the 61st minute, it appeared that Forest would struggle to recover. What a surprise, then, when Little shot into the far corner four minutes from the end after Sunderland failed to clear a free kick from Pearce.

Despite the recent takeover, Forest, who face Middlesbrough today, are still a club with problems. It ill-befits a side crafted by Brian Clough to rely on high balls to Van Hooijdonk. Saunders badly needs a goal; Roy a firework up the backside. Woan, a peripheral influence here, but a good player on his day, is clearly unhappy.

There is confusion over the roles of Pearce, the caretaker-manager, and Bassett, the general manager. Who is in charge? Come May, Waddle might be grateful that his proposed move to the City Ground fell through.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): L. Perez — G. Hall, L. Hooley, R. Oke, D. Kitchin — M. Gray, P. Reid, K. Ball, C. Waddle — A. Rae — M. Bridges (sub: P. Stewart, 73min).  
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Crooksley — D. Wingo, C. Cooper, S. Greene, S. Pearce — D. Phillips, A. Huxford, S. Gerrard, I. Wooten (sub: B. Roy, 66), D. Saunders (sub: J. Moore, 71), P. Jan. Hooijdonk.  
Referee: P. Alcock.

## Derby display will worthy of copying

Derby County ..... 4  
Tottenham Hotspur ..... 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS in Belgium, apparently, where scientists have accidentally cloned the first human. If that were north London, then it would be eminently more believable. Meet Tottenham Hotspur, the world's first football clones.

It is an interesting concept. Eleven Ruud Gullits or Bryan Robson might win a trophy or two, but not the unidentified player Tottenham seemed to have cloned their team from. Eleven players, all skilful enough, adequate technically and probably nice lads to introduce to your mums. But passion? Spirit? Forget it. Derby County, on the other hand, now here is a team to drive the cloners up the wall. They come in like lightning (very sketchy) in patches and no obviously blinding talent. But send them out to run at a brick wall and they would do it willingly.

It was one of those Baseball Ground afternoons. Tottenham, for all their pretty skills and fancy patterns, were never going to win this FA Carling Premiership match on Saturday. Even when they almost bizarrely found themselves back all square at 2-2 just after the interval, there was never any suggestion that they would secure victory.

If they are going to clone success at Tottenham, they must hope it is not merely physical attributes that can be reproduced. Derby displayed some of the baser requirements in achieving a victory that goes some way to ensuring Premiership survival.

They rolled up their sleeves and punched their weight.

If the scientists are able to clone managers in the future then they are unlikely to look like Jim Smith. The Derby manager, though, knows what this business is all about and he has identified the Baseball Ground as Derby's most potent weapon in their struggle against the cloying embrace of relegation.

Two wins from five remaining home games was the target he set before this match and he has got one now, thanks in large part to the emotion generated by one of the most intimidating crowds remaining in the new middle-class world of football.

The roar as Derby stepped up a gear to disperse Tottenham's spirit was intense. Stunners were inspired on 68 minutes to beat two defenders and curl his shot past Walker, with the help of a deflection for the third goal. A minute later and the game was over with Ward, the substitute, stabbing home Dailly's knockdown.

It was the same story in the first half, a frightening intensity of noise willing goals for Van Der Laan, a volley, and a wonderful first for the club by Trollope.

Tottenham play pretty stuff that is at times effective, as goals from Rosenthal, the substitute, and a tap-in by Dozzell, after a good save by Taylor, testified. But when it mattered, Derby desired the win and Tottenham did not.

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): M. Taylor — J. Lewis, P. A. Smith, C. Dailly — L. Carley, R. van der Laan, P. Trollope (sub: D. Powell, 69min), E. Robinson, C. Powell — M. Carlton (sub: S. J. Smith, 81), S. D. Swadlow.  
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walsby — D. Wingo, S. Gerrard, S. Caldwell, S. Carr — S. A. Nielsen, J. Dozzell, A. Senior — J. E. Rosenthal, S. S. Brown, E. Smith.  
Referee: J. Taylor.

## Juninho's ball skills too much for Chelsea

Middlesbrough ..... 1  
Chelsea ..... 0

By MARK HODKINSON

FOOTBALLERS of a certain vintage used to call it "car park football". It was an aphorism for that rare player who could play the game with a liberated heart, mind and feet. In literal terms, he would perform with the same *joie de vivre* on the pitch as he would, say, on the club car park.

Juninho is a car park footballer. His game is a celebration of the moment and is not encumbered by anything except the pleasure of playing, of running, of dancing across the grass. Schoolboy-sized, he is a little lad watching his older brother's pals booting the ball around on some waste land. Ten minutes before tea-time, they succumb to his pleas and let him join in — they do not want to hurt his feelings. Thereafter, the ball and Juninho are a blur and they can no longer take part in their own game. The next day they will fight among themselves to be in Juninho's team.

If Juninho had been raised in St Helens or Swindon rather than São Paulo, he would not be a car park footballer, and perhaps not a professional footballer at all. Coaches would have deemed his marvellous dribbling to be greedy and indulgent. He would have been trampled into the mud, told to attend another trial when he had put on a few stone in weight.

By a circuitous route, Juninho has arrived in the North East of England and, on Saturdays, at least, there is now a speck of beauty among Middlesbrough's pylons, cooling towers, chemical works and shopping precincts. This

beauty stays with people all week, in the offices and factories. It sweetens their lives. In a recent supporter's poll, Juninho was voted Middlesbrough's best ever foreign player by a remarkable distance. He received 78 per cent of the votes, while Ravanelli and Emerson scored just 3 per cent and 2 per cent.

Chelsea, poor souls, found Juninho in irresistible form. They sometimes get close enough to clip his heel or bundle him to the turf, but Juninho was up again, ready to accept their apologies. This benign temperament and a general willingness to work for the team has consolidated the adoration.

Middlesbrough dominated from the start, but failed to score until eight minutes after half-time. Juninho threaded through the defence, passed to Beck and he crossed to the near post where Juninho gleefully headed home.

Chelsea, who had hitherto been lethargic and without imagination, pressed forward and the remainder of the match was joyously exciting, with chances made and missed.

However, the exhilaration of Juninho's day was matched by the wretchedness of Vialli's, who had made one of his infrequent full appearances. His control was poor, his shooting dire and he was plagued by the kind of ill luck that, on another day, would see him miss two buses and be run over by the third.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-4-1-2): M. Schwarze — N. Pearson, G. Fozz, C. Fleming — N. Day, P. Sharp (sub: A. Moore, 25min), S. Vialli, S. Emerson, C. Blackmore — Juninho — M. Beck, C. Nugent.  
CHELSEA (3-5-2): F. Goodles — F. Sinclair, S. Parker, E. Johnson (sub: M. Hughes, 49), D. Pinner (sub: P. Parker, 76), D. Butler, D. Wise, R. Di Matteo (sub: P. Hughes, 79), S. Minto — G. Zola, G. Vialli.  
Referee: M. Pilly.

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And a beer to go with it.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777



# McKenzie pounces to fuel Palace momentum

## Home pride sustains Rovers

**CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-2):** B Barwell — P Raynor, J Craddock, M Joseph, C Vowden — J Ashby, P Wantnes, M Hyde, A Hayes — J Taylor, J Barwell (sub: M Kyd, Tarring).

**CHESTER CITY (4-4-2):** R Sinclair — R Davenport, S Whelan, J Astford, J Jenkins — D Fitzroft, S Reid, C Priest, S Aston — S Rimmer (sub: J Jones, 66), A Milner.

Referee: B Cockington.

RUGBY UNION: MANNER OF DEFEAT INFLICTED ON FRANCE STRENGTHENS CASE FOR EXPANDING FIVE NATIONS

# Emerging Italy hit champions for six

France ..... 32  
Italy ..... 40

FROM DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN GRENOBLE

TWO years ago Italy made a formal request that they should join the five nations' championship, making it into six, but were turned down. Last year they repeated the request, but were told by the five nations' committee that, perhaps, in two years the door would open for them. Here in the Lesdiguières stadium on Saturday, they swung the door back so violently on its hinges that each of the established five nations juddered at the impact.

There are all sorts of explanations for Italy achieving the victory that not one of the home unions could manage this season, most of them associated with the fact that, eight days earlier, France had won the grand slam for themselves.

How swiftly the rooster has become the feather duster, the French cockerel gaining only a modicum of respectability with two late tries that could make no difference to an historic result.

As the accompanying table shows, Italy's results this season place them higher than Ireland and Scotland in an unofficial six nations' tournament (they also have the effect of making England champions). Bear in mind, too, that only one of those games was played at home, though, if there is one foreign city heavily flavoured by an immigrant Italian population, it is Greno-

ble, nestling in the foothills of the Alps.

Yet that is not the whole story. Italy indicated clearly during the 1991 World Cup their level of improvement since the inaugural competition four years earlier. Since then they have brought the best from Australia (1994), beaten Ireland at home (1995) and defeated what was, in effect, the full Scotland side, even if it bore an A label, last year.

"We understand that we must prove ourselves to show that we deserve to play against the British sides," Giancarlo Dondi, the president of the Italian Rugby Federation, said. "We don't want to lower the standard of play in the five nations", nor do we want to appear arrogant, but if we were to become part of the five nations', Italian rugby would go up a step and that might help the whole competition."

Victory over France offers the most convincing possible argument. There will be those who say that, capped international or not, this was far from the France first XV, with players from Brive, Bourgoin and Beziers away for club competitions. Yet eight of the starting XV appeared in the grand slam victory over Scotland a week earlier and not one of the remaining seven were newcomers.

The point at issue for the home unions is to balance the popularity and traditions of what they have with the good that they can do Italian rugby. British administrators may point to the crowd on Saturday — around 10,000 — and complain that the Italians will not be a commercial success,



Guidi, the replacement scrum half, feeds the Italy back line during a defeat of France that challenged the balance of power in European rugby

but this is a chicken-and-egg argument. Italy cannot be a draw until rugby crowds are given the chance to appreciate their qualities. The Irish received a hint in January and there were four tries in which to reveal here.

The first, in a frantic opening period, was by Francesco and gave the Italians a lead that they conceded only during a brief period of the first half. They prospered, moreover, despite struggling initially in the scrums and suffering in the lineout, where only Croci offered a consistent challenge. Their success was founded firmly on a quite outstanding defence, in which all three back-row forwards excelled, while Gardner, the Australian, also produced his most effective attacking game for his adopted country.

Several France players looked as though they expected to win as a penalty try put them on the scoreboard and when Bonduary scored the first of his two tries with a crisp break that carried France to 20-20 shortly after the interval. Italy, though, never ceased to prey on French mistakes, to seize turn-overs and to move the ball adventurously wide. The try that convinced them that they could win owed its being to just that mood. It started with Vaccari fumbling at a loose ball ten metres from his own line, yet he whipped round, set off up the touchline and found his locks and support. Massimo Cutitta chimed in, then Troncon was off and the balding Croci cruised up to finish a wonderful pass sent Vaccari skidding to

## REVISED TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Pts
France	10	7	1	2	28
Italy	10	6	2	2	24
Scotland	10	5	3	2	20
England	10	4	4	2	16
Wales	10	3	5	2	12
Ireland	10	2	6	2	8

Dominguez, who missed only the first of his nine kicks at goal, embellished the lead with penalty goals and it stretched to 31 points when Pertile ran out of deep defence. Though the move appeared to founder ten metres short, Sadoury's relieving kick fell to Gardner, whose rampant charge took him through three defenders before an overhead pass sent Vaccari skidding to

the posts. At that stage only six minutes remained and, though Sadoury, then Bonduary, found the tryline, time had run out for France.

Italy appreciate the need to build from below. In domestic terms, success as the first youth tournament would be of great value, though not as great as the improvement of their image that success over France engenders.

"If others are not certain about us, let them come and see for themselves," Dondi said. His union has an agreement with Tele Monte Carlo, though it does not bring a fee, ensures that everyone can watch Italy international without any pay-per-view involvement. "We respect everyone else's views about us and we seek to be part of the five nations' on merit," he added.

Should there be any that still cavil at Italy's prospects, all their proponents now need to do is whisper "Grenoble" in their ear.

SCORES: France: Tries: Bonduary (2), Sadoury (2), Conversion: Augereau (2). Penalty goals: Augereau (2). Italy: Tries: Vaccari (2), Croci (2), Conversion: Vaccari (2). Penalty goals: Augereau (2). France: Tries: Bonduary (2), Sadoury (2), Conversion: Augereau (2). Italy: Tries: Vaccari (2), Croci (2), Conversion: Vaccari (2). Penalty goals: Augereau (2).

## Brilliance at seven makes Fiji wonder of world

FROM ALISON KERVIN  
IN HONG KONG

AFTER years of being recognised as the unofficial masters of the game, Fiji confirmed to a packed Hong Kong Stadium yesterday that they are the outstanding seven team with a 24-21 victory over South Africa in the World Cup final.

Their triumph was marked with tears of joy, prayers on bended knee and fanfares around the stadium. Promises of national holidays to commemorate the occasion came flooding through from jubilant Fijian leaders and Waisale Serewi, the captain, was described on television and radio as the country's new god.

Fiji took the coveted title from England, the winners of the inaugural world sevens in Scotland four years ago, but this time round England looked off the pace and decidedly second-rate as southern-hemisphere sides dominated the competition. Not one team from the northern hemisphere made it into the semi-finals.

England's dreams of retaining the title were shattered in the quarter-finals yesterday when Western Samoa ran rings round them. England looked tired and unimaginative as they struggled to get just one try in the 21-5 defeat.

"It was a disappointing outing for British sides, but after the five nations' championship and the most packed club season in rugby history, most had severely depleted teams."

"It has been extremely difficult for any northern hemisphere sides to train for this tournament because of 15-a-side commitments," Andrew Harri-

## Mitchell in no mood for excuses as Sale slip

Bristol ..... 34  
Sale ..... 24

BY PETER BILLS

THE inquest behind drawn shutters at the back of the Sale team coach had begun even in the car park at the Memorial Ground. Ensnared in privacy, John Mitchell, the Sale director of rugby, sat grim-faced at his side's profligacy in donating this Courage Clubs Championship first division victory to a struggling Bristol. Never mind Sale's Pilkington Cup semi-final against Harlequins this Saturday, and the chance of a first appearance in the final — sides directed by New Zealanders, as they are, do not countenance excuses for such lost opportunities as this.

Sale were lacking seven first-team regulars, but Jim Mallinder, their captain, was still moved to call it "one of our worst performances of the season". True, but only in part. For Sale had established a 24-13 lead by the 52nd minute even allowing for their careless finishing, which squandered more scoring opportunities. Even so, they were collectively a yard or two faster to the ball and were initially hungrier, rendering Bristol pedestrian by comparison.

Just 30 minutes and three converted tries later, Bristol had pilfered victory with the somewhat embarrassed expression of youngsters scrumping apples from an orchard.

Sale's collapse, from which David Tuiet, the Bristol wing, was the main beneficiary with two tries, began at a 57th-minute scrum. A total lack of concentration by the Sale forwards was the only explanation for a scrumage which retreated faster than a pressurised politician. Bristol scored and were subsequently unrecognisable in achieving only their second league win in 11 games.

SCORES: Bristol: Tries: Tuiet (2), Eagle, Lawley, Conversion: Burke (4). Penalty goals: Burke (2). Sale: Tries: Vales, Mallinder, Conversion: Verheijen, Penalty goals: Verheijen (4).

BRISTOL: J. Lawley, D. Tuiet, F. Waters, K. Maggs, B. Briggs, P. Burke, R. Jones, D. Harlow, S. McCormick, K. Furness, M. Conry, P. Adams, C. Egan, R. Collins, E. Rother, Burke replaced by P. Hall (70min).

SALE: J. Mitchell, D. Rees, D. Wright, C. Yates, S. Verheijen, J. Beveridge, J. O'Leary, P. Winstanley, S. O'Connell, M. Jones, D. Erskine, D. Baldwin, J. Fowler, D. O'Grady, J. Mitchell, Erskine replaced by N. Ashurst (67).

Referee: S. Pacey (Yorkshire)

## Logan earns his stripes for Wasps

Wasps ..... 62  
Orrell ..... 6

BY BRYAN STILES

IF THERE is one thing that Kenny Logan admires about his new team-mates at Wasps it is the way that they support each other in defence or attack — particularly attack. It was a commitment that helped him to five tries in this match, a record haul for the Courage Clubs Championship first division.

It was only his second league game for the club; he had hardly got his feet under the table at Sudbury and here he was hogging the limelight. It was not his fault that he was faced by one of the weakest teams in the first division in

Orrell, who are bottom of the table.

Logan's previous highest try tally in a club match had been three, and that was two years ago for Stirling County, the club that he left several weeks ago to join Wasps, who will feel that their reported £120,000 outlay over three years will be well spent if he can replicate this sort of form.

Logan, 23, a farmer's son who now owns a 300-acre arable farm in Scotland to which he will retire when he leaves the game, travels down from Stirling each midweek for training and match preparation. He will do that for the remainder of the season, moving into a London flat before next term. His presence lends a sharper edge to the Wasps back division as they strive to

retain their position at the head of the league.

In the first half Wasps seemed unstoppable and Orrell's efforts to keep them out sent a quiver of embarrassment down the spine, so inept was their defence at times. Lawrence Dallaglio, the

Full results and league tables ... Page 34

Wasps captain, must have thought that he was performing in the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong — a tournament from which he withdrew through illness — so frisky were his charges before the interval.

His players, though, got

bored with the one-way flow and refused to move out of second gear for much of the second half. At least the Orrell response brought them more territorial advantage after the interval, even if they drew a scoring blank.

One of the more incongruous statements in the second half came when Dallaglio shouted at his players: "We are throwing it away." The fact that Wasps were winning 55-5 was immaterial to him. The championship could come down to points difference and he wanted as many points on the board as he could get. This victory stretched Wasps' lead at the head of the table to four points, with Leicester, their nearest rivals, having played one game fewer.

Dallaglio was at the heart

## Excitement lacking as Harlequins canter in

Harlequins ..... 48  
West Hartlepool ..... 10

BY BARNEY SPENDER

FOR Harlequins it was like another day at the office. A sunny afternoon, seven tries, including a second half hat-trick for Nick Walshe, two points in the kitty and, bearing in mind the Pilkington Cup semi-final against Sale on Saturday, no new injuries.

All very satisfactory; and yet, in spite of the 48-10 scoreline, this was also one of the blander days at the Stoop, probably for the fact that the outcome was never in doubt from the moment when Harlequins opted to run a penalty in front of the West Hartlepool posts. The ball was moved right and O'Leary powered through for the try which, with Lacroix's conversion, gave them a 17-0 lead. The fact that it came after just seven minutes meant that the 4,600 crowd was consigned to sitting through a largely meaningless last 73 minutes.

The win brought Harlequins level on points with Bath, but Andy Keast, the coach, mindful of the vital importance of qualifying for Europe next season, was still wearing a frown rather than his usual Cheshire-cat grin after the game.

"It's about concentration and focus," he said. "In the first 15 minutes it was there, but then we lost it. We've got to learn to be able to control our mental strength." The implication is that, in the final shake-out with Wasps, Leicester and Bath, that failing may count badly.

In patches, Harlequins did play some fine rugby. Cabannes roamed effectively and Lacroix showed some of his trademark sleight of hand to marshal a midfield which featured an impressive performance from Jason Keyter, who got the first of the tries.

SCORES: Harlequins: Tries: Walshe (3), Corcoran (2), Keyter, O'Leary, Conversion: Lacroix (2). Penalty goals: Lacroix (2). West Hartlepool: Tries: Eameshaw, S. John, Conversion: P. Chalkley, D. O'Leary, J. Keyter, W. Corcoran, M. Corcoran, T. Lacroix, Walshe (4 tries). Conversion: Corcoran (2). Penalty goals: Walshe (2). Walshe replaced by James (77).

WEST HARTLEPOOL: M. Shaw, G. Tuskow, L. Bottom, J. Connolly, S. John, C. John, M. Jones, M. Eameshaw, I. Bagg, J. Lacroix, W. Corcoran, D. Barnes, A. Pacey, W. O'Malley, R. Emmerson, C. Murphy, K. replaced by P. Whitlock (54). Bottom replaced by J. Stalker (60). Roden replaced by T. Harvey (60). Referee: G. Hughes (Manchester).

## Davies glad to return to centre of attention

Cardiff ..... 57  
South Wales Police ..... 30

BY GERALD DAVIES

LEIGH DAVIES has endured a season in the doldrums. Last year, while with Neath, he burst on the international scene so successfully in the centre for Wales that his name was soon referred to in terms of potential inclusion in the British Isles contingent. Certainly at that time he looked to be so good a midfield player that he was a front runner for a part in South Africa.

Regrettably, all this faded. In his first season with Cardiff, not only has he failed to enhance his standing, but also he has fallen back. Voted the most promising player in Wales last year, he has failed to fulfil that promise.

However, on Saturday, in this quarter-final of the Swalec Cup, for the first time this season, he amply demonstrated that he has not lost those gifts which made him seem born of the classic mould — swift and delicate passes, able also to show a clean pair of heels on the arc of an outside break or a short, straight burst. Such penetration resulted in four tries for him.

To succeed in this way means that he had to vary his alignment to create the space. This season this has not happened. Either the failing has not been brought to his attention or he has been unable or unwilling to adjust

during what is, for him, a lost season.

Whether such refinements will continue to depend on the requirements of Alex Evans, the former Cardiff coach. After a year back in Australia as a consultant to the national team, he is due to return to Cardiff next season.

Davies, along with Gareth Jones, his partner, helped to make this an entertaining match. They are an exciting pair in the centre and on this form should return soon for international consideration. On Saturday they were given the room to manoeuvre by the promptings of Jonathan Davies.

Not that the action was all one-way, nor that the score truly reflects the difference. Indeed, South Wales Police provided many threatening, continuous attacks of such quality that the clubs in Wales's first division might

learn a good deal. With Rees providing the lineout possession, the fine support work and timing of the players' passes ensured that they gave Cardiff a difficult time.

Justin Price gave the Police a well-justified lead after eight minutes, but Cardiff responded in wonderful fashion with Leigh Davies benefiting three times and Jones once with tries to give their side a 26-3 lead. Darryl Thomas scored for the Police just before half-time.

With Ford extending the lead after the interval, Cardiff looked to have subdued the Police, but tries by Steven Rees and Pritchard brought them back to within two goals and raised hopes of a close finale. A spate of tries by Ford, Leigh Davies, Bennett and Walker, however, ensured that Cardiff went beyond the Police despite tries by James and Codd.

With two of the quarter-finals still to be played, Cardiff will not know who their opponents will be until after next weekend.

SCORES: Cardiff: Tries: J. Davies (4), Ford (2), G. Jones, Pritchard, Walker, Conversion: Jones (4). South Wales Police: Tries: Thomas, Rees, Pritchard, James, Codd, Conversion: Price, Penalty goals: Price.

CARDIFF: J. Davies, M. Walker, L. Davies, G. Jones, S. Ford, J. Davies, J. Davies, A. Lewis, P. Young, L. Davies, M. Bennett, D. Jones, L. Jones, O. Williams, E. Lewis, L. Jones, replaced by K. Stannett (57min). Harlequins replaced by T. Walsh (77).

SOUTH WALES POLICE: P. Sparrow, D. Thomas, J. Aiken, S. Pritchard, R. James, J. Price, G. Jones, M. Randall, M. Pook, G. Bundred, R. Andrews, M. Jones, S. Rees, S. Legge, J. Harcourt, Andrews replaced by M. Codd (41). Bundred replaced by P. Jones (41). Pritchard replaced by M. Talsell (24). Referee: W. D. Brown (Cardiff).



Leigh Davies: high scorer

## Thanet conjure one final effort

Thanet Wanderers ..... 18  
Sudbury ..... 13

(at 13-13 at 80min)

BY BARRY THORNBURGH

HE MAY not have run quite so far and there was no capacity Twickenham crowd to cheer his every stride. For folk down Thanet way, however, Peter Macaulay's try, in the final minute of extra time at Henley on Saturday, will be every bit as memorable as the glorious run by Andy Hancock that drew the 1965 Calcutta Cup match. It earned his side an outing against Doncaster on the hallowed turf of southwest London on May 3.

Traditionally, one-match semi-finals stagnate, but this game, which was to determine one of the finalists in the inaugural Rugby Football Union Intermediate Cup, had everything. Sudbury shrugged off the lethargy that clouded their quarter-final with Broadstreet and Thanet showed again that they do not concede defeat until well past the third chorus of Zulu Warrior. Total commitment would be an understatement.

As in their matches against Guildford and Godalming and Cinderford, Thanet had plenty still to do as the second half unfolded, yet kept their nerve, battled back by doing the basics correctly, then conjured a try to take the game into extra time.

Approaching the hour, however, Thanet should have been

history. With Howler and Finnegan dominating the flank, scrumming anything that moved, Sudbury led 13-3 and only outstanding defence was keeping Thanet in the tie.

Like the spring weather, though, the theme unaccountably changed, and suddenly every Thanet player wanted the ball in his hands. To good effect, too, for a strong run by Coyne soon sent Stokes over wide on the right, and it was a high tackle on the same player that incurred the penalty from which Smith borrowed over to buy them more time.

For a first, the final should be something worthy of Twickenham. Having won all their games in London II South and North II, respectively, this season, Thanet and Doncaster could not be better matched, and Doncaster, too, pulled themselves out of the fire with a try after 79 minutes and had to endure extra time before they got the better of Middlesbrough after an 8-8 draw, only because they won by a greater margin in the quarter-finals.

SCORES: Thanet Wanderers: Tries: Stokes, Smith, Macaulay, Penalty goal: Redmond. Sudbury: Tries: Sumner, Evans, Penalty goal: J. Howling.

THANET WANDERERS: G. Redmond, S. Stokes, M. Coyne, P. Macaulay, M. Meyer, G. Harper, J. Ward, R. Galt, C. Smith, T. Carter, A. Michael, P. Hughes, G. Hingley, C. Harman, G. Langley, Michael replaced by J. Hume (70min). Harlequins replaced by J. Aslett (90). Redmond replaced by M. Ford (82).

SUDBURY: D. Beckett, G. Evans, J. Cowling, R. Sumner, A. Tabbles, M. J. J. Harman, F. Barker, S. Galt, R. Ward, D. Williams, J. Howler, S. Finnegan, S. Bull, G. Altham, J. replaced by D. Miles (17). Ward replaced by M. Burren (76). G. Cowling replaced by K. Cowling (82). Referee: S. Savage (Manchester).



The jubilant Serewi is carried from the pitch

man, the England manager, said. Indeed, it was Fiji who dominated the tournament from day one. They notched up cricket scores against the smaller teams, dispensing with Western Samoa in their semi-final before beating South Africa in style.

South Africa reached the final, beating New Zealand at the last-four stage, by playing disciplined, organised rugby more reminiscent of their World Cup-winning XV. However, once faced with the athletic and creative Fijians in the final, they struggled to exert control. Despite taking an early lead when Venter went over twice, it was Fiji who dominated for two thirds of the game.

They replied through the talented Vunibaka, an unemployed labourer who was outstanding in the tournament, to trail by seven points at the break.

Fiji moved to 14-14 in the second half with an Erenavula try, before Koroi twice claimed tries to give Fiji an ultimately unassailable lead.

Stephen Brink, the speedy South Africa wing, scored minutes from time to make it 24-21, but Fiji were already celebrating their victory.

With Hong Kong teetering on the edge of its hand-over to China and the sevens' future in jeopardy, it seemed right that the Fiji team led by Serewi, the greatest exponent in the history of the sevens game, should be crowned world champions.

SCORES: Fiji: Tries: Koroi (2), Erenavula, Vunibaka, Conversion: Serewi (2). South Africa: Tries: Venter (2), Brink, Conversion: Brink (2). W. Venter, M. Nanganga, L. Koroi, Vunibaka, Koroi replaced by T. SOUTH AFRICA: A. Venter, P. Roseouw, B. Shibuswa, A. Symes, J. van Oort, replaced by S. Brink, J. Oliver replaced by G. Bower.

## ICE HOCKEY

Cooke said: "There is a real buzz around the ground the moment Martin gets the ball. This is sometimes followed a moment or two later by a groan when he is tackled." Perhaps Offiah is worth the £400,000 that his manager said he earns from his cross-codes contracts.



A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a basketball player in a 'FOR TEAM' jersey, captured in a dynamic pose during a game. The player is wearing a jersey with 'FOR TEAM' printed on the back. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

photograph: Marc Aspland

That ended 115 minutes, 49 seconds of actual play time and the game took 1 hour and 33 minutes to complete. Both goalenders, Sven Ramf, of Ayr, and Trevor Robins, of Nottingham — made some spectacular saves during overtime, knowing that one small mistake could cost their team the game. Robins, asked if he found it difficult to maintain concentration over such a long period, said: "Concentration is tougher at the start, but in a long game like this it is essential to keep a positive frame of mind; the final factor is the biggest problem."

For Kurumu, it was an amazing lapse as he had been penalised for the same offence in a quarter-final game against Manchester Storm. Had Blaisdell seen that television? "I read about it," he said, "but I was desperate and we needed a power play."

Ironically, the winning goal came after Bishop had been

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**For the final, helter-skelter** try by Prescott, Salford had already retreated, while St. Helens supporters were booking their trips to London.

**SCORES:** St. Helens: Tries: Hurrell (3), Sullivan (3), Joynt, Cunningham, Prescott. Goals: Evers (8). Manly: Salford: Reddy (3), Murray, Rogers, Morley, Gossieble (4).

**ST. HELENS:** S. Prescott, D. Arnold, A. Hurrell, P. Neillides, A. Sullivan, T. Murray, L. Evers, A. Joynt, J. Cunningham, J. Rogers, S. Gossieble, C. Morley, K. Hammond. Substitutes: P. Lawrence, V. Maitland, D. Morley, A. Hurrell.

**SALFORD REDS:** D. Rogers, F. Sani, S. Hurrell, N. Morley, P. Cowgill, S. Blahosky.

get up to £3

5,000

**SCORERS:** Shannon: Penalty goals: Thompson (5). Temura College: Penalty goals: Dempsey (4).

**SHANNON:** P. Murray, B. O'Shea, A. McGrath, C. McDermott, A. Thompson, J. Galvin, G. Russell, J. Hickey, J. Deegan, N. Healy, A. Quinlan, R. Sherill, M. Gately, E. Healey, A. Foley. Quinlan replaced by J. Maher (57min). Hickey replaced by M. Moran (63). J. Hayes temporary.

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**EAGLE STAR**

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**Members:** C. Adams, G. Dempsey, M. Smyth, C. de Gaszcon, D. Coleman, S. Cullen, N. Hogan, D. Hyland, C. Egan, P. Bruce, J. Kelly, G. James, M. Quinn, B. Kavanagh, M. Egan. Cullen replaced by J. Muldowney (47); M. Egan replaced by D. Moriarty (75)

**Referee:** D. Napier (Mister)

**33 800**

8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm.

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# Sun shines down on bright lights of future

By MICHAEL AYLIW

SCHOOLDAYS are widely held to be the best days and, for those lucky enough to be involved, schools' day at Twickenham on Saturday would certainly qualify as one of the better ones.

With relatively little happening elsewhere, schoolboy rugby was last week granted a small window in the season through which to shine. The Rosslyn Park sevens was as big and successful as ever, and on Saturday Twickenham hosted three of the main schoolboy fixtures of the season: the Daily Mail under-15 and under-18 schools cup finals, and the international between the England schools 18 Group and their counterparts from France.

Twickenham was abuzz. The cumulative noise was a couple of semi-tones higher than usual, but the enthusiasm was unbridled. Brilliant pockets of uniformed colour decorated the crowd of 20,000.

Sedburgh, which has produced players at every representative level of England rugby this season, has attracted some of Great Britain's best schools to its ten-a-side tournament today and tomorrow. Durham, the beaten finalists in the Rosslyn Park sevens last week, join the likes of Llandovery and Edinburgh Academy for the competition, in the which the most successful team from each of the four pools goes forward to a separate competition.

As separate enclaves vied with each other during the two cup finals, before coming together for the international. "The girls in blue think the Kirkham XV are worth a try!" read one banner. The rugby thrilled. The sun shone. Schooldays sat fondly in the memory.

Yet, amid all the heady excitement, the benevolent gaze of those older and wiser issued forth from brows beginning to crease with concern. The game is now professional and that is already beginning to filter through to schools level. Scholarships are being set up and boys are being targeted. Michael Pearey, formerly president of the Rugby Football Union, now in charge of schools, is aware of the vital role that his department now plays.

"A lot of these boys understandably have stars in their eyes and hope that they will make hundreds of thousands of pounds in top-class rugby."



he said. "We have got to make them realise that only a tiny minority will ever manage that and so a full and rounded education remains a priority for all of them."

Geoff Wappett, delighted after the England team that he coaches became the first this season to beat their French equivalents, 20-10, sounded similarly cautious notes. "It's very flattering for the boys, and their parents, too, when big clubs show interest, but I would like to see a code of practice established that would create order between clubs and the boys they are interested in," he said.

Wappett is concerned at the lack of a solid bridge between schools rugby and club rugby, and would like to see an intermediate league created involving the top schools and club teams from the leading clubs. Pearey, meanwhile, sees a national "super league" for the top schools as inevitable.

The march of progress, then, is taking schools rugby with it. In my schooldays, not so long ago, there were no Gatorade bottles and shimmering shellsuits with school insignia emblazoned across them; not to mention the possibility of appearing at Twickenham in the final of a national competition.

This year the Gatorade-swilling finalists were RGS High Wycombe and Whitgift, in the juniors, and Colston's Collegiate and Kirkham Grammar School in the seniors. High Wycombe, for whom Nick Duncombe, the captain and scrum half, caught the eye, became the first school to retain the junior title, while Colston's became the first school to win the senior event three times in a row.

The rugby in both finals was exhilarating but contained a healthy number of mistakes and imperfections. The unfettered exuberance of those playing and those watching provided a spectacle high in flair and adventure, adding weight to the view that schooldays are indeed the best days.



Lee Pointing, right, of Bootle High School, takes the contest to Louis Cadman, the King Harold School boxer

## Refusing to throw in the towel in pursuit of former glory

In 50 years of the schools' national boxing championships, not one fatality or serious injury has occurred. This, though, is the sport that has been expunged from the gymnasium through a concerted effort by headmasters, the British Medical Association, teacher training colleges and even physical education experts. It is, they say, too dangerous to have anything to do with the national curriculum.

Until now, perhaps. Who said this in support of bringing boxing back into the schools? "A number of chief constables hold the view that, if boys spent their evenings letting off steam in the gym, they would not be hitting old ladies over the head," Henry Cooper, a backbench Tory MP, No. 1 in the coming Labour Minister for Sport, Tom Pendry.

How politics has changed. It was certain Labour ministers and councillors who, in the 1960s, accelerated the decline of boxing in schools. A decade earlier, 53,000 boys between the ages of 12 and 18 attended the national championships finals one year at Wembley, at Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham, where on Saturday the fiftieth anniversary tournament was held, this figure had plummeted to 624.

Ivo Tennant on the fight by boxing to halt a drastic decline at schools level

The age-group had been narrowed to 12-16 and the standard was mixed, but the enthusiasm... "The point is that the disciplines of boxing you learn at school — a training routine, stamina, courage — can be transferred into later life," Dudley Savill, the general secretary of the Schools Amateur Boxing Association (SABA), said.

"The British Medical Association has put forward propaganda successfully, but has not come up with any evidence which sticks on the amateur side of the sport. I want to get a dialogue going. In a climate in which there is a great deal of bullying, boxing should be given an opportunity again. Had it been more generally available, it could

have had an effect on reducing crime figures." The majority of the boys who reached the finals on Saturday were from working-class backgrounds. "There has been no attempt to maintain boxing in independent schools," Simon Kemp, of Amateur Boxing News, said.

"That has affected the opportunities of talented boxers from poor backgrounds and brought the sport in universities, medical schools and the top independent boarding schools should be targeted to resume boxing."

Such a task is the responsibility of the Schools Commission, a newly formed sub-committee of the SABA. Its chairman is Jim Smart, who, as headmaster of Churchmead, a comprehensive in Datchet, introduced boxing four years ago. "Only one or two schools in the whole country box now, but, if

we told children they would be doing so, they would run home to pick up as much gear as they could find," he said.

Twenty of Smart's 555 pupils box and five of them are (non-contact) girls. His aim is for 30 schools to take up the sport this year. "We have to start with non-contact boxing for 11-year-olds upwards," he said. "All the boys wear up-to-date headguards and we are looking at using heavier gloves. I am only prepared to have boxing at a school which has a properly qualified person in charge."

As for the boys, the pontification of politicians and the anxieties of their teachers merely washes over them. Alexander Gibbins, 13, who attends a comprehensive in Bognor Regis, concurred with his father, a former Amateur Boxing Association divisional champion, that boxing makes for a less violent society. On Saturday he became the junior "A" champion. "Headguards," he said. "I know they are supposed to protect you, but they narrow the target area. I don't think we should have them."

### SPEEDWAY

## Wigg leads Knights to Star Cup success

By TONY HOARE

IT WAS the result that nobody expected. A King's Lynn team, put together at the eleventh hour, travelled to Peterborough and pulled off an unexpected 49-41 victory in a Speedway Star Cup group match on Friday night.

Short of practice, because their stadium and track are not yet ready for action, King's Lynn thus became the first visiting team since 1994 to win at the Panthers' Alwalton track.

Peterborough finished second in the Premier League last season and expected to figure prominently in the Elite League championship race this year, led by Jason Crump, a British record signing from Poole for £35,000 last January. In contrast, King's Lynn have put together a side on a shoestring budget, with a mixture of loan riders and foreign assets recalled after the club's year out of action in 1996.

Top scorer for the Knights at the fast and narrow Peterborough circuit was Simon Wigg, a former world championship runner-up, who joined King's Lynn two weeks ago on loan from Bradford.

Wigg, 36, scored 13 points, despite racing with a broken rib suffered in practice at Oxford last Monday. "To go to Peterborough and win is brilliant, everyone is shocked about it," Wigg said.

"I'm very pleasantly surprised. Everybody was jumping up and down about how well Peterborough were doing and we've been there and beaten them. I don't think any of the supporters could believe it because they had gone to Peterborough with no expectations. We were a very happy bunch."

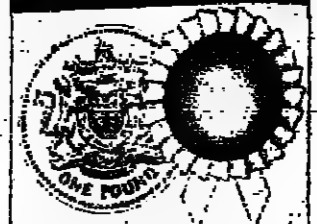
Meanwhile, Coventry's impressive start to the Speedway Star Cup stuttered over the weekend when they lost away to Belle Vue on Friday night and were held to a draw at home to Wolverhampton the next evening. Low scoring from Shane Bowes and Simon Cross, the second strings, left the Bees struggling against a consistent Wolverhampton team, but Greg Hancock, Coventry's top rider, continued his electric start to the season.

Hancock, the world No. 3, has been beaten by an opponent just once in 20 races this season — and that was when he suffered carburettor trouble against Swindon while leading the heat.

Bradford confirmed their credentials as potential Elite League pacemakers with a comfortable 56-34 home victory over Swindon on Saturday. David Walsh, signed just last week to fill the reserve slot, left after Todd Wilshire was refused a work permit, topped the scorechart on his debut.

## A manifesto designed to bring a smile to the face of sport

### THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



Sport has always played a leading role in election campaigns, with politicians keen to claim some of the credit for the country's sporting prowess. This campaign has kicked off in familiar fashion with the main party leaders desperate to grab photo-opportunities with leading figures in sport.

The chances of any of the parties including some serious proposals in their manifestos to help develop the nation's sports, however, look minimal. Yet sport is more than a niche activity in the country. The Sports Council estimates that there are around 28 million regular participants in sports, supporting an industry that employs 450,000 people and raises several billion pounds in taxes. Add to that the millions who enjoy sport from the comfort of their armchairs and you have an instant that constituency politicians should find hard to resist.

The Times has got together with Richard Baldwin, a tax partner at Deloitte and Touche accountants, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation to produce its own manifesto for sport. The measures are reasonably simple and can all be achieved at no great cost; the tax measures are costed at little more than £100 million. Not only would they raise the country's sporting reputation, but also, with more leading events and participants at all levels, they could end up actually increasing the money that the Government receives from sport-related activities.

□ Tax: A few simple tax changes would make a real difference to the country's ability to bid for top sporting events. Euro 96 was a genuinely successful tournament, raising more than £60 million for the Government, but other countries offer a more favourable VAT rate that may tempt future tournaments elsewhere. Reducing VAT on admissions would have saved the Euro 96 organisers around £5 million.

International sporting bodies and international events are also subject to corporation tax. Creating a more tax-friendly environment, by making corporation tax payments more coherent or even abolishing tax for sporting organisations, as in Australia, would make the United Kingdom more competitive.

□ Charity: Local sports clubs are mostly run by volunteers on a non-profit basis. Yet, unlike the neighbouring amateur dramatics clubs, local sports clubs are not regarded as charities. Granting the clubs charitable status would enable them to become exempt from corporation tax on fund-raising and sponsorship income. The clubs would also be eligible for relief from business rates.

□ Lottery: The lottery levy could be reduced from 12 per cent and some of the money channelled to assist youth sport, while unclaimed prize-money could also be given to charity rather than returned to the prize pool. Sporting organisations have greatly benefited from lottery grants but there are a few changes to the procedure which would improve the system, including a simplified application procedure for small grants.

□ Europe: Sport has always been vital to Europe with clubs competing across the Continent long before the establishment of the EU, but there is no reference to sport in the Maastricht Treaty. Adding sport to the treaty would not only recognise its importance to the EU nations but also would allow leading sporting bodies to advise Europe on the consequences of new legislation for sport.

□ Playing fields: There has been some recent action to try to stem the sell-off of playing fields, but the greatest help would be the repeal of regulations that encourage local authorities to dispose of their sites. Once recreation facilities are lost, they cannot be replaced, so obliging local authorities to research strategies for the future of playing fields should also help to ensure that sufficient playing fields exist for the next generation.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

### BASKETBALL

## Home-bred Sharks lack aggression

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE sight of four full England internationals representing one Budweiser League club is an unusual one in this post-Bosman era.

Between them, Roger Huggins, Michael Payne, Ian McKenney and Jason Swaine have contributed much to keep Sheffield Sharks in contention for the title, but Jim Brandon, their American coach, would love it if they showed a touch more aggression.

"Some of the England guys get a bit tentative," he said after the Sharks had defeated Worthing Bears 94-77. "Sometimes they have the habit of looking like choirboys. They are the types you would want to marry your daughter or your sister. I would prefer them to go into games with the attitude of 'I'll kick you in the teeth and I will buy you a drink afterwards'."

No kicks in the teeth were needed on Saturday, however, when the Sharks recovered from early arrears of 13-4 to stay among the leaders.

Voisie Winters led Sheffield with 33 points and Todd Cauthorn finished with 20. James Hamilton top-scored with 31 for the Bears, who were handicapped by the rare failure of Cleave Lewis, their player/coach, to score.

Newcastle Eagles virtually secured a place in the play-offs with their 86-76 win away to Crystal Palace, while, at Derby, where a play-off spot was at stake, the Storm gained a 98-95 success over Leicester Riders.

## Young golfers prepare for Tour de Force

By MEL WEBB

THE deadline has passed, and the line-ups for the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT), being run in association with *The Times*, have been settled. There were more than 1,000 applications to join the tour and the huge entry has been distilled down to the best 216 players to compete on the three tours that will comprise the tournament.

It has not been easy for Colin Springate, the tournament director, to send a rejection slip to the hundreds of unlucky ones, but he can gain one consolation — the fact that he has had to disappoint so many players is an indicator of the popularity of the competition.

The Daihatsu tour has been created to give added impetus to the pioneering work put in over the past three years by Springate, an unassuming and enthusiastic chartered surveyor from Kent.

The tour is the progeny of a tournament inaugurated in 1994 in response to the difficulty being experienced by his son, Daniel, in getting enough competitive golf.

Daniel, then an eight-handicapper, found that as a member of a club with no organised junior section, he was getting little chance to compete against other players of a similar standard.

Springate Jr was between the devil and the deep blue sea — either getting beaten by contemporaries, who, for a variety of reasons, had unrealistically high handicaps, or finding himself just short of the standard required for selection for county teams and some of the stronger competitions. For Daniel and his

peers, good and improving players that they were, the competitive outlook was not a rosy one.

Springate looked into his son's complaints and, having found them justified, responded by launching a tour for the best juniors in Kent. It was such a success that it expanded in 1995 and grew further in 1996. Now, with the involvement of Daihatsu, it is to take its biggest step forward yet. Springate was a part-time tournament director in the first three years, but has now been able to take on the job full-time.

There will be three tours — national, southern and northern, each of which will be contested by 72 players. The national circuit will comprise the best of the 1,000-plus entries, while the regional tours are designed to become feeders for the elite national competition. Even before the first ball is struck, the competition is set for expansion —



next year Midland and Scottish tours will be added to the programme.

Patron of the organisation is David Leadbetter, who has become probably the best-known golf coach in the world since he rebuilt Nick Faldo's swing in the mid-Eighties. Leadbetter is characteristically playing a low-profile role in the tours, but his support has been of key importance to the success of Springate's branch.



Ben Willman drives off at Camberley Heath watched by Grant, his twin brother

He became interested in Springate's scheme in the early days, when a Kent tour event went to Chart Hills, the European headquarters of Leadbetter's global teaching academies. He and Springate chatted and, before long, Leadbetter had become actively involved in the scheme.

"His support has been vital," Springate said. "He rings me regularly and we talk things over. He could not have given us more encouragement than he has. He is totally committed to the competition, and we think we're very lucky to have him with us."

There will be eight tournaments in both the northern and southern sections with players having to play in a minimum of six events, and ten in the national competition with a minimum commitment of seven appearances to produce end-of-season orders of merit. Dates have been chosen to avoid the leading

amateur competitions and tournaments will be held during school holidays, bank holidays and weekends.

"We felt it was important to provide a cushion to allow players to miss the odd event if they have to and still have a chance to qualify," Springate said.

He will also be staging two invitational competitions for girls with an upper handicap limit of 18, and it is hoped that a tour will be launched for them next year.

The climax of the season will be the tournament of champions, in which the winners of all 26 events on the three tours will meet over 36 holes at Chart Hills on November 9 and 10. The winner there, plus the winner of the national tour, will receive coaching at Leadbetter's world headquarters at Lake Nona, Florida, and also have the opportunity to play some competitive golf in the United States.

The winner of that season-ending tournament will finish 1997 having trodden the fairways of some of the finest golf courses in the United Kingdom — Open Championship venues such as Turnberry, Royal Birkdale and Royal Lytham and St Annes are on the national tour rota.

The winners of the 1996 tours — Karl Johnson, Martin Lewis and Robert Oldaker — have entered again, and Johnson will be the first JGT champion to defend his title. Several clubs have multiple entries, and Camberley Heath, which has five, includes the 17-year-old twins, Ben and Grant Willman. The brothers are into filial togetherness right down to their handicaps — they both play off five.

### NETBALL

## No fuss as England prevail

By A CORRESPONDENT

WHEN, on Friday afternoon, the Chelsea football team strode into Heathrow for a flight to Teesside, they were treated like royalty. In contrast, the England women's netball squad, bound for Belfast, were almost unnoticed.

Yet, while Chelsea lost their FA Carling Premiership match away to Middlesbrough, England prevailed 71-40 against Northern Ireland. Ironically, the England team included interchangeable goal attack and goal shooter — Tracey Neville, the sister of Gary and Phil, the Manchester United defenders, and Tracy Bartram, the wife of the Arsenal reserve goalkeeper.

Neville and Bartram each averaged shooting ratios of more than 80 per cent, but readily acknowledged the part played by Amanda Newton, who made some significant interceptions as a substitute goalkeeper. England fielded a mixture of under-21 and senior players. One newcomer, Olivia Murphy, impressed at centre.

The England Under-18 team enjoyed a similarly comprehensive victory over Northern Ireland, 62-31. Karen Gregg and Louise Moore excelled in the England attack, achieving strike rates of more than 80 per cent.

Scotland received a fright in Manchester on Saturday when they defeated Guernsey 34-29 after trailing with five minutes remaining.

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BUSINESS SPORT

CRICKET: CRONJE PUNISHES AUSTRALIA'S ATTACK AFTER McGRATH TIRES

# Fast bowlers maintain South Africa's control

FROM JACK BANNISTER  
IN CENTURION

CENTURION PARK (third day of five): Australia, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 61 runs behind South Africa.

ALTHOUGH the Waugh twins took a little of the gloss from South Africa's best day of the series with a fourth-wicket partnership of 66 yesterday, a home victory now looks certain. As against West Indies earlier this year, Australia, having won the series, have been outplayed in the final Test. At 96 for four, they are still 61 behind.

Their last chance of leaving their hosts a sizeable fourth-innings target may well have disappeared when, just before the close, Mark Waugh was bowled by the inside edge by Par Symcox, the off spinner, when attempting a cover drive.

The Waugh twins had come together at 28 for three on South Africa's grip on the match close to a strategic hour after the fall of Mark Taylor and the two Matthews, Hayden and Elliott. The bounce

was fearsome, especially from the pavilion end, but the Waugh twins somehow weathered the storm to claw back a little lost ground.

Australia had looked like getting right back into the game in the first 85 minutes of the day when Glen McGrath took three of the first four wickets to fall for only 22 runs. Symcox, the nightwatchman, was first to go, trying for a third successive four off Jason Gillespie. Jacques Kallis could only fend a brute of a delivery to Steve Waugh in the gully before Adam Bacher, having added only two singles from

62 balls, went leg-before to McGrath for 96, an innings that had occupied 7½ hours. Richardson was out second ball, bowled rather unskillfully as the ball rebounded from body to stumps and, at 262 for seven, South Africa were only 35 ahead.

It was then that the lack of a third pace bowler proved costly for Australia. McGrath, having bowled a marvellous spell of 14-8-23-3 in the morning session, was powerless to stop Lance Klusener and Hansie Cronje from adding 68 in 16 overs. Michael Bevan was hit out of the attack and

Shane Warne returned his worst Test figures since 1992. Gillespie came back to bowl Klusener, but Cronje crashed 42 of the 52 runs added for the last two wickets and in the course of his unbeaten 79 became the first South African to pass 2,000 Test runs since his country's readmission to international cricket.

Australia needed a good start, but lost three wickets in the first 13 overs. Hayden's big stride forward failed to save him when Schuster appealed for leg-before. He is one of three players going home before the one-day series — Elliott and Justin Langer are the others — and he may have walked out of international cricket in unlucky fashion.

Taylor got a good one from Donald, Richardson taking the catch, while Elliott, having left a gap between bat and pad, also fell to Donald, an inside edge going on to hit the middle stump.

South Africa were thus able to ram home the advantage won on Saturday, when Bacher and Brian McMillan built a solid platform with their second-wicket partnership of 112.

## SCOREBOARD FROM CENTURION

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 287 (B Waugh 96, B Schuster 41 for 55)	
B Waugh	96
B Schuster	41
M L Taylor	28
M J Richardson	28
M E Hayden	28
M J Langer	28
M J Elliott	28
M J Symcox	28
M J Par	28
M J Bacher	28
M J Klusener	28
M J Cronje	28
M J Bevan	28
M J Warne	28
M J Gillespie	28
M J Schuster	28
M J Richardson	28
M J Taylor	28
M J Hayden	28
M J Langer	28
M J Elliott	28
M J Symcox	28
M J Par	28
M J Bacher	28
M J Klusener	28
M J Cronje	28
M J Bevan	28
M J Warne	28
M J Gillespie	28
M J Schuster	28
M J Richardson	28
M J Taylor	28
M J Hayden	28
M J Langer	28
M J Elliott	28
M J Symcox	28
M J Par	28
M J Bacher	28
M J Klusener	28
M J Cronje	28
M J Bevan	28
M J Warne	28
M J Gillespie	28
M J Schuster	28
M J Richardson	28
M J Taylor	28
M J Hayden	28
M J Langer	28
M J Elliott	28
M J Symcox	28
M J Par	28
M J Bacher	28
M J Klusener	28
M J Cronje	28
M J Bevan	28
M J Warne	28
M J Gillespie	28
M J Schuster	28
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James Henderson previews one of the greatest international canoe races: 125 miles from Devizes to London

# All the way on paddle power

As you watch the agonised and exhausted faces in the Boat Race crews this coming Saturday, at the end of their four miles from Putney to Mortlake, spare a thought for the crews of canoeists who will be arriving in London from the other direction. They have come all the way from Devizes, Wiltshire, 125 miles away, on one of the world's longest and most arduous canoeing races.

The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, takes place each Easter weekend and 1997 is its Golden Jubilee. Up to 400 boats, from as far away as Denmark, Malta, the United States and Pakistan, will be taking part.

The event starts before dawn on Good Friday at the wharf in Devizes. Competitors paddle the length of the Kennet & Avon Canal to Reading, where they will join the Thames and paddle down to London, finishing at Westminster Bridge.

There's nothing quite like the DW, says Steve Harris, who partners Ivan Lawler as the reigning world doubles marathon canoe champion, and who has competed in the event in the past, says. The longest race on the international circuit is 26 miles long. The DW is five times that.

It's so long and arduous, Harris says, "that it scares off a lot of the elite paddlers because it could put them out for the rest of the season."

Instead, the DW is mainly an amateur challenge, but there is no shortage of people prepared to drive themselves to the point of physical collapse in their efforts to complete it. And as if the canoeing is not enough, there are locks to contend with: 77 of them. Paddlers have to "portage" around them; they get out, pick up their canoe, and walk, or run, around the lock, put the boat back in and cast off as quickly as they can.

It sounds difficult, but one competitor admitted: "Actually, portages are not that bad. They get the circulation in the legs going again."

The race, which has taken on a style of true derring-do and adventure, was conceived in a pub as a bet in the 1930s, when a group of friends wagered that they could take a skiff from Pewsey in Wiltshire to Mudeford near Christchurch, Dorset, in less than three days, which they did. The challenge was resurrected over the current route in the

## SPORT FOR ALL



late 1940s and canoeists joined them in 1948. The race has been staged annually ever since.

There are four classes within the DW and up to 60 trophies in all: for different categories and styles of canoe. Three classes — the junior doubles, senior singles and the veteran/junior combination — are run in daily "stages" over the Easter weekend. Paddlers race about 35 miles on each of the first three days. Then, on Easter Monday at 8.30am there will be a mass start at Ham, and 120 boats will ride the last 17 miles of the course downstream, reaching Westminster Bridge by about ten o'clock.

The fourth class is the senior doubles, an innocent-sounding name for what turns out to be an unearthly, gruelling slog lasting between 16 and 24 hours without a break. This

**"The bones ache, the brain plays tricks. Only strength of personality will get you through it"**

event is paddled "straight through"; no time is allowed for rest or food. About half of the total entrants will be in this class and quite a few of those will not make it.

It is a truly tough event. Apart from the sheer length, which makes it so exhausting, there is the unpredictable weather (particularly this year because Easter is so early). Competitors can find themselves paddling in a T-shirt during the day if it is sunny and then a few hours later it can be freezing. The worst moment

seems to come about an hour before dawn, when it is coldest and teams have been paddling through the night in the dark.

Tamzin Phipps, who has paddled the race eight times in the past ten years and has won the women's event once and the mixed event another year, says: "That's when the bones are aching and the brain starts playing tricks. It is only strength of personality that gets you through."

It's true. It takes a certain mind-set to keep going and going, thoughts fixed on the next portage, without letting the cold, hunger and discomfort turn to doubt. There is a saying that competitors take their brain out in Devizes and get it back at Westminster.

Finally, the race throws in one more challenge. It is vital to catch the outgoing tide in the final stretch from Teddington Lock because it is impossible to paddle against the flow. Competitors choose their own start times in order to arrive there at high tide. Just imagine the disappointment of having to wait for six hours on the riverbank.

As well as entries from clubs, there is a long Services tradition in the DW. The Royal Engineers and Marines always enter and often so do the Police and RAF. There have been some well-known competitors in past years — among them Robin Knox-Johnston and Chay Blyth — but the best-known alumnus of the race is Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats leader, who competed in the 1965 race while he was in the Marines, winning his class for the year. He is reputed to have said that he knows of only one person in history who had a more miserable Easter. It is a long haul to Westminster, however you look at it.

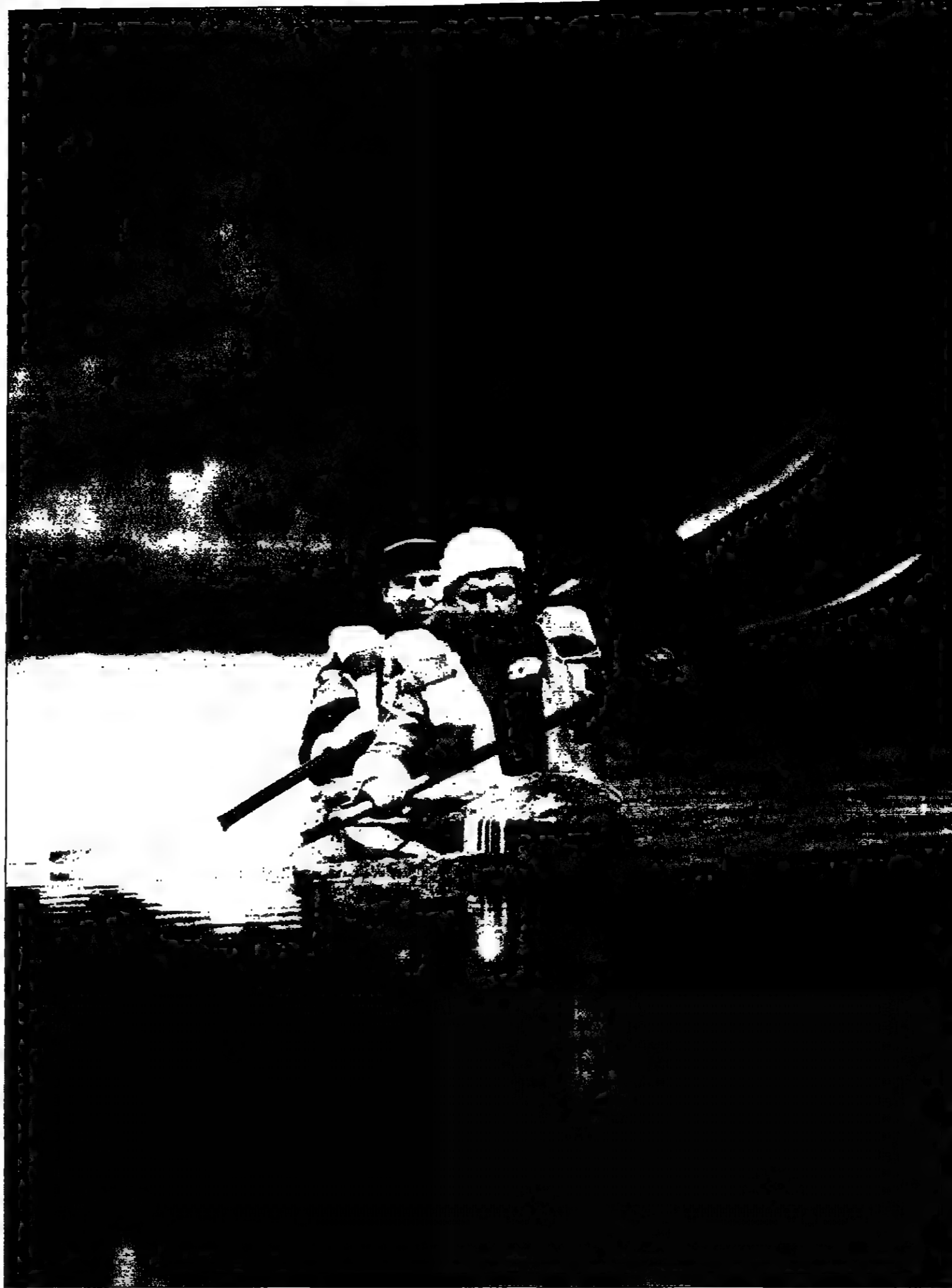
So why do these people do it? Why do they put themselves through such cold, wet misery, and for so long, for no obvious material gain?

For men like Harris and Lawler, there is the potential prestige of breaking the record, but for most people the answer lies in the challenge, and there are as many answers as there are people.

Some want to beat their time from last year, others want to beat their father's time from 20 years before. Others are raising money for charity. Many competitors simply want to finish — in itself a huge accomplishment.

For all the agony and exhaustion, the feelings of pain

fade fairly quickly after you have finished and you're warm and dry. The memories remain, though, and they give that irreplaceable and immense feeling that every long-distance sports person knows. The feeling of a challenge taken on and won.



Near Pewsey, Wiltshire, in the Devizes-Westminster canoe race, a competition that started as a pub bet in the 1930s and is now an international event.



Passing a lock: like the repetitious paddling, hard work, but great for restoring the circulation in the legs

THE easiest and safest introduction to canoeing is through a club or a training centre. There are thousands of these around the country.

For general advice and a list of clubs affiliated to British Canoe Union, contact the BCU in Nottingham (tel: 0115-982 1100).

Annual BCU membership costs £16.50 for adults and £10 for under-18s. The BCU can provide leaflets with the dates and prices of introductory courses. Basic weekend introductory courses start at about £60. Club membership varies, but can cost around £45 for a club that has canoes available (buying is expensive). Some clubs also hold open

days and introductory evenings free or at minimal charge.

Such events will introduce you to the sport and enable you to choose a discipline, which in addition to the sprints and marathons on flat water, are as varied as slalom, wildwater (like downhill), sea kayaking, rodeo (trick canoeing) and even canoe-surfing and canoe-sailing.

If you continue with the sport, you will want to buy your own clothes and equipment, such as windproof jacket and buoyancy aid.

If you want to enter the Devizes to Westminster race, it would be a good idea to start training soon for next Easter. At least make sure to get on the water during the summer

because capsizing in August is much less uncomfortable than in December.

You should certainly attend some of the Waterside and Thameside series, each between 15 and 35 miles long, which are staged fortnightly on Sundays in the run-up to the main event. They are held on different stretches of the course so that paddlers can get an idea of the marathon in advance.

Details and application forms for the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race can be obtained from the committee at Boscombe Forge, Church Road, Boscombe, Surrey KT23 3JG, or phone 071-801 8266. Entry fees are between £60 and £70 for a double boat and £35 for a single.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is an amusing incident (not so amusing for West) from the BBL Premier League match between Price and Ash.

Dealer	West	Game all	IMP
♠ 2	♥ 10 7 4	♠ A 7 5 4 3	♥ 10 8
♦ 10 7 4	♣ 10 8 5 4	♦ A 8 6	♣ K 10 8 7 2
♣ 10 8 5 4	♠ 2	♠ A 7 5 4 3	♥ 10 8
♠ 2	♥ 10 7 4	♦ A 8 6	♣ K 10 8 7 2
♦ 10 7 4	♣ 10 8 5 4	♠ A 7 5 4 3	♥ 10 8
♣ 10 8 5 4	♠ 2	♦ A 8 6	♣ K 10 8 7 2

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: queen of hearts

(1) Showing a weak hand with at least five-four in hearts and a minor. (2) To play in partner's minor.

David Mossop ducked the first heart, won the second and drew two rounds of trumps. West discarding the queen of clubs. Nothing wrong with that — signalling with the top of a sequence when you can afford it is one of the best ways of briefing partner about the hand. Had East held A 7 6 2 in clubs, he would have been grateful to learn that he should rise with the ace when declarer played a club from dummy.

Things went wrong for West when Mossop got off lead with

a diamond. The defence should have arranged for East to win this trick of course, but somehow West took it. West continued with the jack of clubs, disastrously crashing partner's king. Mossop won, played a second club to West's nine, ruffed the diamond return, and ran the six of clubs, taking a ruffing finesse against the ten.

After this misadventure, West's defensive signals will probably be much less generous (and less clear) for quite some time.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CUDDY  
a. A lord's entertainment  
b. An officer's cabin  
c. A stupid Scot

CULCH  
a. Oyster spawn  
b. A pine cone  
c. A fused wire

CULLIS  
a. A small postern  
b. A strong broth  
c. A roof gutter

CULVERTAGE  
a. Primitive drainage  
b. A dressage manoeuvre  
c. Downgrading

Answers on page 45

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Youngest grandmaster

In the wake of Gawain Jones, 9, defeating the international master Malcolm Pein, Etienne Bacrot, from France, has scored 6½ points out of nine games in the category ten tournament at Enghien-les-Bains, near Paris, to become the world's youngest-ever grandmaster. Bacrot is 14.

### World championship

It has been announced that the controversial 1997 world championship between Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov, which bypasses both of their official organisations, the PCA and Fide, will be held near Paris starting in October. The match will have a prize fund of \$3 million, be played over 18 games and will start on October 21. The venue will be the Palace of Napoleon at Compiègne, 50 kilometres north of Paris.

### Brilliant win

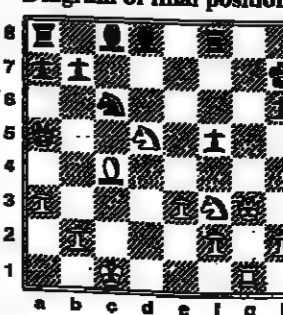
The following brilliant win was scored by the British international master, Aaron Summerscale, in the tournament at Cannes. There is a superb variation on move 17 if Black accepts the rook sacrifice.

White: Aaron Summerscale  
Black: Edmar Mednis  
Cannes, March 1997

### Queen's Gambit Declined

1	c4	Nf6
2	Nc3	e5
3	Nf3	c5
4	d4	exd4
5	Bd3	c5
6	Qc2	Bc5
7	Qc2	Nc6
8	Qc2	Bc5
9	Qc2	Bc5
10	Qc2	Bc5
11	Qc2	Bc5
12	Qc2	Bc5
13	Qc2	Bc5
14	Qc2	Bc5
15	Qc2	Bc5
16	Qc2	Bc5
17	Qc2	Bc5
18	Qc2	Bc5
19	Qc2	Bc5
20	Qc2	Bc5
21	Qc2	Bc5

### Diagram of final position



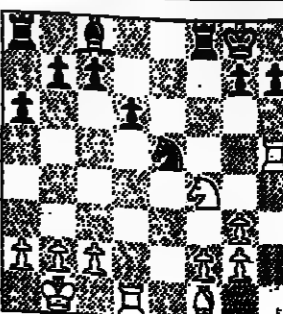
If 18 ... Kxg7 19 Rg1+ Bg5 20 Nxe5 hxe5 21 Rxe5+ Kh6 22 Rh5+ Kh5 23 Qh7+ Kg4 24 Be2+ f3 25 Nf6+ Kg5 26 Ne4+ Kg4 27 h3 checkmate.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Savernjev Paromov, USSR 1963. Although queens have been exchanged, White's lead in development still allows him to bring off a winning combination. Can you see it?



Solution on page 45



# Virgin flights to Jo'burg worth £80,000 to be won

## 51 PAIRS OF TICKETS, PLUS TWO NIGHTS AT SABI SABI FOR OUR FIRST PRIZE WINNER

*The Times*, in association with Virgin Atlantic, gives you and a partner the chance to win return flights on Virgin's service direct from London to Johannesburg, daily from July 15, 1997. We have 51 pairs of return tickets worth a total of £80,000 to give away.

The first-prize winner will receive a pair of Virgin Atlantic Economy tickets and two nights at Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve, including flights from Jo'burg to the reserve, adjoining the Kruger National Park.

Fifty readers can win a pair of return tickets for travel in Economy which has spacious seats, exceptional service from friendly and attentive cabin crews and easy-to-view seatback TV screens. All Virgin's Jo'burg flights are on Airbus A340 aircraft featuring the award-winning Arcadia interactive system

which includes eight movie channels showing all the latest releases.

You can also enjoy CD-quality audio, a Super Nintendo channel, and a Skymap so you can chart your flight's progress. In addition you can choose from three delicious meals and have complimentary drinks.

The winner and a companion will be taken on safari into the African bush with trained game rangers and Shangaan trackers. So diverse is the habitat and wildlife at Sabi Sabi they will have an excellent chance of seeing the "Big Five" — elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard as well as wild dog, cheetah, zebra, giraffe and all species indigenous to the area.

### HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from those appearing in *The Times* this week and answer the question on the entry form below. A bonus token also appeared in Weekend on Saturday. The closing date for entries is Saturday April 12, 1997.



### THE TIMES/VIRGIN JO'BURG FLIGHTS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Attach four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* to this form and tick the appropriate answer to the competition question. Post to: The Times/Virgin Jo'burg Competition, 11 Whitefriars St, London EC8 7NG. The closing date for receipt of entries is Saturday, April 12, 1997.

Sabi Sabi adjoins which National Park?

☐ a) Serengeti ☐ b) Kruger ☐ c) Hwange

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day Tel \_\_\_\_\_

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times* please tick this box ☐

#### IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE FOUR QUESTIONS:

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** 1 The prizes will consist of: one first prize of one pair of Economy round-trip tickets on the London Heathrow-Johannesburg service operated by Virgin Atlantic Airways Limited and two nights accommodation, including all meals, for two people provided by Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve and domestic flights between Johannesburg and Sabi Sabi. The first prize winner is permitted to extend their stay, however all additional accommodation will be their responsibility. Fifty runners-up will each receive prize of one pair of Economy round-trip tickets on the London Heathrow-Johannesburg service operated by Virgin Atlantic Airways Limited. 2 Tickets will be valid for 12 months from date of issue. Actual dates of travel will be subject to availability at the time of booking. Availability for use of prize tickets is limited for each flight. Some flights may already be booked and consequently have no seats available for this offer. The earlier you book, the better the chance you will have of obtaining seats on the flight of your choice. 3 Travel is not permitted between December 1 1997 and January 31 1998 (inclusive) or within the period of seven days immediately preceding and immediately following Good Friday. 4 Flights must originate in London Heathrow. 5 The prizes are not transferable to another family member or any other named person. There is no cash alternative to the prizes. 6 Entrants must be 18 years of age and must reside in the UK. 7 Tickets are non-transferable to another airline and have no cash value. 8 Pairs of prize tickets must be used together on the same flight and on the same date. 9 Flights can only be booked by contacting Virgin Atlantic's Marketing

department. All flights offered will be on a confirmed basis. Telephone numbers and office hours will be supplied. 10 Ten working days booking notice will be required. 11 All runners-up will be responsible for their own requirements, passport and insurance. 12 Once a booking has been confirmed no changes are permitted, if a booking is cancelled no alternative tickets will be issued. 13 Prize winners will be responsible for their own visa requirements, passport and insurance. 14 Once tickets have been issued Virgin Atlantic shall not be liable for any failure to comply with its obligations caused by weather conditions, fire, flood, strike, terrorism, industrial disputes, acts of God or any other circumstance amounting to Force Majeure. 15 Only original tokens and entry forms permitted. Photocopies are not acceptable. 16 The judges' decision is final. Receipts of entries will not be acknowledged. 17 No Virgin Freeway miles will be awarded for travel under this promotion. 18 The prize tickets may not be used in conjunction with any other promotions or promotional fare mounted by Virgin Atlantic or any other third party. 19 Employees of News International Newspapers Ltd, Virgin Atlantic, their agents or any company associated with the competition are not eligible to enter the competition. 20 No purchase necessary. Airport tax, air passenger duty and security charges are not included in the prize and are payable by each passenger.

CHANGING TIMES

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

1622	1511	1174	301	2	645	Shawmut	644	21	59	180
1623	1512	1175	302	2	646	Shawmut	645	21	59	180
1700	1513	1176	303	2	647	Shawmut	646	21	59	180
1701	1514	1177	304	2	648	Shawmut	647	21	59	180
3246	1515	1178	305	2	649	Shawmut	648	21	59	180
3247	1516	1179	306	2	650	Shawmut	649	21	59	180
3248	1517	1180	307	2	651	Shawmut	650	21	59	180
3249	1518	1181	308	2	652	Shawmut	651	21	59	180
3250	1519	1182	309	2	653	Shawmut	652	21	59	180
3251	1520	1183	310	2	654	Shawmut	653	21	59	180
3252	1521	1184	311	2	655	Shawmut	654	21	59	180
3253	1522	1185	312	2	656	Shawmut	655	21	59	180
3254	1523	1186	313	2	657	Shawmut	656	21	59	180
3255	1524	1187	314	2	658	Shawmut	657	21	59	180
3256	1525	1188	315	2	659	Shawmut	658	21	59	180
3257	1526	1189	316	2	660	Shawmut	659	21	59	180
3258	1527	1190	317	2	661	Shawmut	660	21	59	180
3259	1528	1191	318	2	662	Shawmut	661	21	59	180
3260	1529	1192	319	2	663	Shawmut	662	21	59	180
3261	1530	1193	320	2	664	Shawmut	663	21	59	180
3262	1531	1194	321	2	665	Shawmut	664	21	59	180
3263	1532	1195	322	2	666	Shawmut	665	21	59	180
3264	1533	1196	323	2	667	Shawmut	666	21	59	180
3265	1534	1197	324	2	668	Shawmut	667	21	59	180
3266	1535	1198	325	2	669	Shawmut	668	21	59	180
3267	1536	1199	326	2	670	Shawmut	669	21	59	180
3268	1537	1200	327	2	671	Shawmut	670	21	59	180
3269	1538	1201	328	2	672	Shawmut	671	21	59	180
3270	1539	1202	329	2	673	Shawmut	672	21	59	180
3271	1540	1203	330	2	674	Shawmut	673	21	59	180
3272	1541	1204	331	2	675	Shawmut	674	21	59	180
3273	1542	1205	332	2	676	Shawmut	675	21	59	180
3274	1543	1206	333	2	677	Shawmut	676	21	59	180
3275	1544	1207	334	2	678	Shawmut	677	21	59	180
3276	1545	1208	335	2	679	Shawmut	678	21	59	180
3277	1546	1209	336	2	680	Shawmut	679	21	59	180
3278	1547	1210	337	2	681	Shawmut	680	21	59	180
3279	1548	1211	338	2	682	Shawmut	681	21	59	180
3280	1549	1212	339	2	683	Shawmut	682	21	59	180
3281	1550	1213	340	2	684	Shawmut	683	21	59	180
3282	1551	1214	341	2	685	Shawmut	684	21	59	180
3283	1552	1215	342	2	686	Shawmut	685	21	59	180
3284	1553	1216	343	2	687	Shawmut	686	21	59	180
3285	1554	1217	344	2	688	Shawmut	687	21	59	180

[illegible][illegible]

ALTERNATIVE U.S. MARKET			
5000 Dow Jones	5197	+2	1.184
5000 Dow Industrials	525	-1	31
5000 Dow Chemicals	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Energy	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Health Care	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Tech	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Telecom	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Utilities	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Financial	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Real Estate	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Consumer Goods	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Industrial Goods	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Transportation	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Services	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Media	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Entertainment	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Healthcare	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Pharmaceuticals	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Biotech	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Aerospace	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Defense	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Space	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Environmental	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Energy Services	81	+2	8.66
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5000 Dow Chemical Services	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Industrial Services	81	+2	8.66
5000 Dow Transportation			

[illegible][illegible]

100%	-1%	6.73	7.07
100%	-2%	7.83	7.97
100%	-3%	7.76	7.97
100%	-4%	7.79	7.97
100%	-5%	7.97	7.97
100%	-2%	7.76	7.97
40%	-4%	7.77	
30%	-4%	7.84	
50%	-4%	7.91	
school inflation at		10%	9%
70%	-4%		2.1%
100%	-4%	2.7%	3.2%

171 <sup>a</sup>	-	$\mu_{10}$	2.16	24
172 <sup>a</sup>	-	$\mu_{10}$	3.76	31
173 <sup>a</sup>	-	$\mu_{10}$	2.32	35
140 <sup>a</sup> <sub>10</sub>	-	$\mu_{10}$	3.37	35
139 <sup>a</sup> <sub>10</sub>	-	$\mu_{10}$	3.49	35
140 <sup>a</sup> <sub>11</sub>	-	$\mu_{11}$	3.47	31
140 <sup>a</sup> <sub>12</sub>	-	$\mu_{12}$	3.40	31
122 <sup>a</sup>	1	$\mu_{12}$	3.40	24

RETAILERS, FOOD									
5,261.84	500A Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
3,471.69	500B Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
85.10	500C Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500D Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500E Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500F Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500G Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500H Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500I Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500J Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500K Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500L Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500M Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500N Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500O Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500P Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500Q Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500R Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500S Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500T Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500U Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500V Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500W Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500X Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500Y Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500Z Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AA Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AB Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AC Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AD Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AE Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AF Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AG Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AH Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AI Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AJ Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AK Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AL Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AM Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AN Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AO Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AP Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AQ Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AR Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AS Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AT Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				
1,000.00	500AU Group	100%	1%	3.2	12.8				

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## If your business trades abroad, we'll help ensure that nothing's overlooked.

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**NEXT:** The success story from Britain's premier high street fashion retailer is set to continue with full-year figures on Wednesday. Judging by the Christmas trading statement, these figures should be fairly impressive, with pre-tax profits expected to grow almost 30 per cent from £125 million to £159 million. Earnings growth should be even stronger, with a 31 per cent increase pencilled in from 23.1p to 30.3p.

Sales of the group's retailing arm grew 24 per cent in the 24 weeks to January 1, bolstered by a 5 per cent increase in selling space. But as David Jones, chief executive, is only too happy to point out, the real boost to sales came from Next Directory, which was up 26 per cent. The overall increase in group sales was 16 per cent.

According to NatWest Securities, costs have risen about 13 per cent, although gross margins will have grown 0.5 per cent. Shareholders are expected to be rewarded with a near-30 per cent rise in the payout from 11.75p to 15p net.

**P&Q:** Full-year figures tomorrow, are likely to bear the scars of a £50 million, to £60 million hit relating to its cross-Channel ferry operations. However, these write-offs are likely to be countered, to an

Overall, pre-tax profits are expected to be down about £30 million at £290 million with earnings per share showing an 11 per cent decline at 33.9p.

Brokers say the decline in profitability should prove short-lived as the benefits of restructuring filter through this year. These will include improved efficiency in both the container and, subject to regulatory approval, the ferry operations. In the current year the group also expects to complete the merger with Siena, the demerger of Bovis Homes, the withdrawal from bulk shipping and the proposed disposal of £500 million worth of property.

**BLUE CIRCLE:** A stronger second-half performance is envisaged at home after the 21 per cent profits shortfall at Blue Circle Industries in the first six months.

unveiled today, by 11 per cent, from £273 million to £303 million, with earnings per share up from 21.4p to 23.6p. The dividend is expected to grow from 12.5p to 13.2p.

**INCHCAPE:** The measures taken by the new management and stronger performances from its core operations should mean that improved full-year figures are unveiled today.

Pre-tax profits are likely to be up 13 per cent at £166 million, while earnings will have grown 22 per cent to 17.1p. The payout is likely to be 5 per cent higher at 10.5p.

A recovery is expected in the vehicle import and distribution operation where a combination of new models, the return to profitability of the European arm and the weaker Japanese yen will have proved beneficial. The only drag will come from weaker car sales in Hong Kong and Singapore. An improvement is also expected in the marketing division after rationalisation, while further investment in its Coca-Cola bottling plants in Russia will have held back profits.

**CARADON:** The benefits of recent rationalisation will be a key feature when full-year figures are announced on Wednesday, with pre-tax profits expected to be 17 per cent ahead at £176.7 million compared with £151.6 million last time. Earnings will also have grown 16 per cent to £59p, but the payout is likely to show only a small increase to 9.7p compared with 9.5p last time.

Cost savings of £30 million were achieved in the first half with that figure growing to £54 million for the year, while US windows and doors will return to the black.

**REDLAND:** A disappointing performance across Europe will result in a downturn in pre-tax profits of almost a third to £252 million when the group reports on Thursday. Earnings per share are expected to drop from 30.6p to 21.3p, while it is hoped that the dividend will be neeched at 16.7p.

**TAYLOR WOODROW:** The gradual recovery in the housing market should provide the biggest thrust to the group's performance. Pre-tax profits tomorrow will be about £66.5

million compared with £53 million last time, while earnings per share are likely to be up from 8.9p to 11.3p. The contracting arm will have made efforts to break even after recent losses. The dividend should grow from 3p to 3.5p.

**BOOKER:** A sharp drop in profits is on the cards when the food distribution group reports full-year results tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to slump from £90.2 million to £27 million, after restructuring charges of £77 million. Earnings will slump from 26p to a loss of 5p in the wake of last year's rights issue and the increased number of new shares in issue. Brokers are hoping for a 3 per cent rise in the payout to 23.8p.

**MORGAN CRUCIBLE:** The expected downturn in growth during the second half failed to materialise and profits in the second six months are now expected to match those of the first. As a result, overall profits at the pre-tax level are expected to come out today at

**MICHAEL CLARK**



## Increase is forecast for US rates

THE key event for financial markets this week is the Federal Open Market Committee's meeting tomorrow amid widespread expectation that US interest rates will be raised. After last week's testimony to Congress by Alan Greenspan, Fed Chairman, in which he spoke of the strength of the economy and the importance of pre-emptive action against inflation, the markets believe that the Fed Funds rate will be raised by 0.25 per cent.

Britain's economic agenda is fairly light. Interest rates will be centre stage on Wednesday when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, hold their monthly discussion of monetary policy. The general expectation is that the Bank will again seek a quarter-point on base rates and that Mr Clarke will continue to say "no" right up until the election.

Today sees publication of final figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product, expected to leave quarterly growth unchanged at 0.8 per cent and year-on-year growth unchanged at 2.7 per cent.

January figures for global visible trade are expected to show a deficit of £710 million on Wednesday, according to a consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International, against December's £845 million shortfall. February non-European Union trade is predicted to show a deficit of £565 million, against January's £368 million shortfall.

In Europe, the most important figures will be Germany's March cost of living data, expected to show a modest drop in the annual inflation rate after an upward blip earlier this year. In January, the rate jumped to 1.8 per cent, from 1.4 per cent in December, before easing to 1.7 per cent in February. In France, figures on Friday are expected to show unemployment stuck at 12.7 per cent in February.

IANET BUSH

**TODAY**

**Interests:** GR Holdings, Northern Leisure, Property Income, SAC Entertainment. **Financs:** Arvey, Blue Circle Industries, Brammer, Capital & Regional Properties, Datatrone Group, EBC Co, Fined Earth, Forth Ports, Global Gp, How Gp, Inchcape, Kingspan Gp, Morgan Crucible, Nestor-BNA, Newmont, Odebrecht, Odebrecht Holdings, Omnicare, Padana, Senang Holdings, PPL Therapeutics, Scrutton, Seaford Resources, Serfi, Sevensfield-Reeve, Sharpe & Fisher, Transac, Travis Perkins, TBS Stores, Ulster Tr, VCI, Waterford Wadsworth, Economic Stimulus, UK final GP, (04), UK best practice partnership (04). **Insrs report on Financial Markets**

**TOMORROW**

**Interests:** Allied London Properties, Burn Stewart Distilleries, FBD Holdings, Kier Gp, Scottish Metropolitan, Finistec Aerospace, William Baird, Booker, Bostron, Castles, Fleming Memorials, Hamleys, Hodder Headline, Holders Technology, Hunting, Kinship Group, Lloyds Bank, Lloyds, London Securities, Macfarlane Gp, Macfarlane, Meristem, New Ireland Holdings, P&O, Quality Software Products, Russek, Scholl, SIG, Singer & Friedlander, Sun Life & Provincial, Taylor Woodrow, Tudor, Varo Gp, Wharman. Economic statistics: API weekly oil supply statistics.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Interests:** Barnett Developments, City Technology, McKeeSmith, M.J. Gleason Group, Provind SpA, PW Thorpe, RSC Chemicals, S.A. de Balle, Calsud, Calsud Bioproductos Internacionales, AARC Black, Snake Brothers, Bridon, British Fittings Co., Caradon, Crode, International, Clinton Cards, Dewongroup, Fordis, Fulmar, Garton Engineering, Healthcraft, Maiden Gap, Nestle, Niche (Minto), Quilco SpA, Ruberold, Swane Hill Group, T.L.S. UK Society, Union Carbide, Union Carbide International, Urethane Polymers, Rink, Economatica, Uteco, UK global trade in goods (January), non-EU trade in goods (February).

**THURSDAY**

**Interims:** Beilite Gifford Japan, DCS Gp, L Gardiner Gp, Trafford Park Estates. **Finals:** Brockbank Gp, Foreign & Colonial US Smaller, Hepworth, Meltek, MTL Instruments Gp, Narco Higgs, Redland, Rushmere Wynne Gp, Slough Estates. **Economic statistics:** US weekly jobless claims report.

**FRIDAY**

## STIMULATES

**The Sunday Times:** Buy Raci Electronics, EDBF Man; Sell Newcastle United. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Pearson, Frost Group, Upton & Southern. **The Observer:** Buy Next. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy BP, SEC Group, Stadium. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy Capital and Regional Properties, BTR, Tomkins. **Sunday Business:** Buy Iceland, Heywood Williams, Eurocamp.

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A circular diagram consisting of five thick, black, curved arrows arranged in a clockwise cycle. Each arrow points towards a small black dot located in the center of the cycle. The dots are arranged in a pentagonal pattern. The entire diagram is set against a white background with a faint, dotted circular border.

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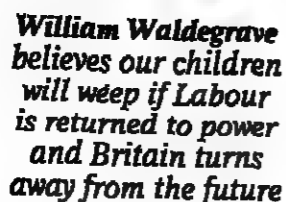
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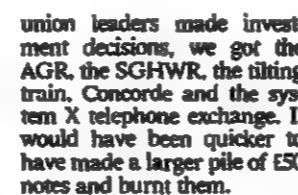




## Table talk and fine food



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Now we have more modesty in Whitehall: and investment decisions in privatised industry try aimed at securing a return for the shareholders by meeting customers' needs.

Secondly, in industry more widely, the Thatcher-Major Government has shown authority to management with the result that the country will be one of the worst strikers' records in the 1960s and 1970s now has one of the best. The result of these and other fundamental supply-side reforms (for example, a tax system designed to produce incentives, abolition of exchange controls, reform of Governmental bureaucracy, deregulation in telecommunications and financial services) taken together with the stabilisation of the economy -

If Britain loses her nerve and goes back to all that, it will be hard to know whether to laugh or weep. But succeeding generations would know: they would know that Britain had turned away from the future, they would think we had lost our nerve just when the prize was within our grasp. Our children would see our grand refusal as tragic. Preventing that tragedy is the Conservatives' job in this general election.

□ William Waldegrave, MP, is Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gregory and John McNamara.



M 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-  
WORLD SERVICE. MW 848; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am).

## MORAG PRESTON

هكذا من الأصل

# Having had the cake, I'd like to eat it again

All week, the plan had been the same. To start the review with *Hamish Macbeth*, one of my great favourites of the moment. But the plan will have to wait. Everything will have to wait... for *Have Your Cake* and *East 11* (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). It was quite, quite brilliant.

Whether Michael Jackson, the Controller of BBC1, is right to cram four hours of such high quality drama into only two weeks (almost matching the rate at which *ITV* is getting through its detectives) I do not know. But I do know that next weekend won't be the same without my double dose of *Sinbad*.

I also know that any man thinking of living up to the extramarital fling will be having very serious second thoughts in the wake of Rob Heyland's beautifully crafted screenplay. If the right hook delivered on the stroke of midnight

on New Year's Eve, didn't persuade them, last night's *coup de grace*, hot coffee poured directly into the errant lap, will.

Small credit for the success of *Have Your Cake* must go to Paul Abbott, whose not altogether dissimilar serial, *Reckless*, recently reminded us what good television marital infidelity can produce. But however good *Reckless* was by the end, *Have Your Cake* started better and never looked back. Enormous credit for that must go to Paul Seed, the director, who secured terrific performances from every member of his cast and hit barely a duff note throughout.

Having eulogised quite so rapturously, however, it must be said, after Saturday's superlative episode, last night's conclusion did place something of a strain on its credibility as Heyland embarked energetically — and imaginatively — in pursuit of the moral message that his truncated title implied.

"Helping deliver your husband's mistress's baby?" observed *James Bolam*. "That'll be something to tell the grandchildren." Wife and mistress brought together by birthing ritual? I didn't buy it for a minute, but by then the whole thing had become so enjoyable that it didn't matter.

*Sinbad* Cusack, as *Charlene*, was outstanding throughout, but it has to be said it was a rare gem of a part, the wronged wife who, when confronted with her husband's infidelity, didn't fall apart but first got empowered and then — finally and fabulously — got even. But she couldn't have done it without wonderful help from Miles Anderson as the glibly Sam. Holly Aird as the far from *fatal* other woman, Bolam as her adviser-turned-administrator... indeed just about anybody who uttered a single word of Heyland's hard-

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

working dialogue. Next weekend will simply not be the same.

Of course, we'll still have *Hamish Macbeth* (BBC1) and perhaps by next weekend he'll be back in Lochdubh, rather than gallivanting around the Western Isles solving decades-old mysteries. Solving mysteries is not really what *Hamish Macbeth* is about.

It was, however, last night, with Constable Macbeth (the excellent

Robert Carlyle) on holiday on the island of Laggan-Laggan and walking into a plot so complicated that I freely admit I'm not absolutely sure what happened in the end. I know these island communities are close-knit, but this one was positively crocheted.

Although the episode did have its lighter moments (staying in a household split by the Roman Catholic/Protestant divide, Macbeth prudently opted to be Jewish) and had Caroline Paterson escaping from Albert Square to play the pretty girl without whom no *Hamish Macbeth* is without, there was something strangely "not right" about it. It was like a story that Daniel Boyle, the writer, had been hanging on to for some time, only to be forced — for whatever reason — into pouring it into a *Hamish Macbeth* mould for which it was never intended, nor indeed, suited. Lovely performances from a cast that included

Alan MacNaughton, Tom Watson and Michael Byrne, but baffling nonetheless. As the old roadsign almost says: Haste Ye Back, *Hamish*... to Lochdubh.

There was another curiosity on *ITV*, where DCI Barnaby, the latest addition to *ITV's* apparently endless portfolio of literary detectives, drove straight into Miss Marple land, the preposterously idyllic village of Badger's Drift, where — to nobody's great surprise — everybody had a secret and nothing was quite as it seemed. Unless, of course, you were up on the plot of *Tis Pity She's A Whore*, in which case you'd probably got *Midsomer Murders* cracked after 15 minutes.

The rest of us took a while longer. "Why do I get the feeling that everyone is lying to me?" asked Barnaby (John Nettles, who certainly had more fun playing Bergerac). "Because they always

do," said his wife, taking time off from Delia Smith recipes to remind him of the very foundation stone of detective fiction. Sunday nights — indeed most nights — on *ITV* would be awfully short if everybody told the truth.

Nettles did a good job of establishing Barnaby as a credible character, but was hindered by a storyline where murders are still solved by the knowledge that the Test match had been rained off on Wednesday (nobody mentioned the fact that Test matches are not played on Wednesdays) or that it was half-day closing in Cawston, and by two very theatrical performances from Elizabeth Spriggs and Richard Cant as the village's far from amateur blackmailers. As for Barnaby's inevitable sidekick, Sergeant Troy, he turned out to be a red herring, which in a story dependent on literary knowledge for its final twist... seemed like cheating.

## 6.00am Business Breakfast (9705)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (92453)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (9881434)

9.20 Style Challenge (413811)

9.45 Killy (4818076)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (11415)

11.00 News (T) and weather (8834873)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (7448502)

11.35 Change That (8021434)

12.00 News (T) and weather (7885502)

12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5929705)

12.30 Going for a Song Antiques game, hosted by Michael Parkinson (6296873)

12.55 The Weather Show (7830637)

1.00 News (T) and weather (88540)

1.30 Regional News (83030182)

1.40 Neighbours (11334959)

2.05 To Dance with the White Dog (1983)

With Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy. An elderly man is grief-stricken by the death of his beloved wife after 57 years of marriage, but finds comfort in the company of a stray dog. Directed by Glenn Jordan (7615347)

3.30 Playdays (589818) 3.50 Pingu (6251347) 3.55 Bodger and Badger (859106) 4.10 Gadget Boy (1895906)

4.35 Record Breakers Gold Last in series (533055) 5.00 Newsworld (T) (3012296)

5.10 Blue Peter (T) (5884969)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (T) (885596)

6.00 News (T) and weather (347)

6.30 Newsround South East (827)

7.00 This Is Your Life (9618)

7.30 Here and Now Steve Annet reports on controversial plans for the emergency services. Plus: Danielle Mahoney meets children who suffer from a rare condition in which they feel no pain (811)

8.00 EastEnders. Ricky gets caught in the middle of the mystery surrounding Sarah's disappearance (T) (8386)

8.30 Goodnight, Sweetheart. Complications arise when Phoebe's mother-in-law turns up at the Royal Oak (T) (7873)

9.00 News (T) and weather (8453)

9.30 Panorama: Abortion — Behind Closed Doors Sarah Barclay examines the abortion issue (T) (580273)

10.10 The Untouchables (1987) Kevin Costner stars as Eliot Ness, the crusading federal agent leading the battle against police corruption and underworld crime in 1920s Chicago. With Sean Connery, Robert De Niro and Andy Garcia. Directed by Brian De Palma (811865) 10.10 The Slide (762270) 10.40 A Parent's Guide (302057) 10.55 FILM: The Untouchables (1896023) 12.50 Under the Influence (3001380) 1.05 FILM: Crocodile (240635) 2.40 News

12.05am Under the Influence Sophie Aldred continues to examine the influence of Christianity in Britain (7418835)

12.20 Crocodile (1989) with Roger Moore and Martin Sheen. A mid-mannered advertising executive unwittingly gets caught up in an espionage ring after being handed an uncompleted crossword puzzle by a dying man. Directed by Alvin Karpis (344564)

1.55 Weather (3805767)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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## 6.00am Open University: From Child to Pupil (7817434) 6.25 How We Study (7817434) 6.50 An English Accent (966298) 7.15 News (7730969) 7.30 Secret Life of Toys (3251892) 7.45 Wacky Races (T) (5889786) 8.10 Blue Peter (T) (5371366) 8.35 Barmy (5557989) 9.00 Act-A-Hut (T) (13873) 9.30 Sweet Valley High (T) (5070144) 9.55 Oakley (T) (7896327) 10.10 Playdays (9034182) 10.30 Babar (T) (18057)

11.00 Lassie: The Voyager (1986) with Robert Ray and MacDonald Carey. Lassie braves a hurricane to give chase to her master. Directed by Dick Moder and Jack B. Hively (43415)

12.30pm Working Lunch (80279) 1.00 Secret Life of Toys (T) (5889505) 1.15 My Village (8127828)

1.30 Lady in the Lake (1948, b/w) with Robert Montgomery and Audrey Totter. A missing person case full of intrigue and deception for Philip Marlowe. Directed by Robert Montgomery (3295288)

3.00 News, Regional News (T) and weather (2454865) 3.05 The Natural World (T) (4557908) 3.35 News (T) (8241960) 4.00 Today's the Day (540) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (724) 5.00 Esther (1304) 5.30 Going, Going, Go (795)

6.00 The Simpsons (882328)

6.25 Space Precinct (T) (T) (885502)

7.10 Electric Circus features Wet Wet Wet (837298)

7.30 The Sol Files Military and economic systems could be attacked by high-tech enemies via the Internet (453)

8.00 Motor World The first of a new series includes footage of the Vauxhall Rally of Wales (T) (9008)

8.30 Ray Mears's World of Survival: Nembla While in the Kalahari bush, Mears learns how to avoid lions while tracking antelopes and how to make a poison arrow from fence wire (T) (5415)

9.00 News (T) and weather (8453)

9.30 Panorama: Abortion — Behind Closed Doors Sarah Barclay examines the abortion issue (T) (580273)

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## 6.00am GMTV (528250)

9.25 Chain Letters (T) (4113502)

9.55 Regional News (T) (5912689)

10.00 The Time, the Place (T) (41231)

10.30 This Morning (4160958)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (794786)

12.30 News (T) and weather (8224569)

12.55 High Road (T) (6293960) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (47134078) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (T) (7608182) 2.40 Savanah (T) (1833960)

3.20 News (T) (8959265)

3.25 Regional News (T) (930796)

3.30 Tots TV (T) (7119845) 3.40 Rainbow Days (935618) 3.50 Goody (3519881) 4.05 Sooty's Amazing Adventures (2169618) 4.20 Snap (T) (1879960) 4.45 Art Attack (T) (5824347)

5.10 Sorted Focusing on bullying (5062163)

5.40 News (T) and weather (885502)

6.00 Home and Away (T) (T) (802182)

6.25 HTV Weather (158908)



# PAYDAY 45

Roger Bootle on impact of a minimum wage

# BUSINESS

WAY AHEAD 46

UK must not turn  
says William  
Waldegrave

MONDAY MARCH 24 1997

## Legal pressure may force BAT to bring demerger forward

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE growing legal pressure on American tobacco companies is expected to force BAT Industries, owner of Brown & Williamson and the Lucky Strike brand, to bring forward plans for a split between these and its financial services activities.

BAT, which has played down speculation of a demerger in the past, was coming under increasing

pressure from its shareholders even before last week's unexpected surrender by Liggett, maker of Chesterfields and one of the biggest US cigarette producers, to the anti-tobacco lobby groups.

Now investors are likely to seek a firm promise of a deadline for hiving off tobacco amid reports that BAT is attempting to create a fighting fund along with other US tobacco firms to oppose the escalating legal action. BAT itself is

believed to have decided internally that demerger could take place by the end of the year. Such a promise would mean a sharp rise for the share price, which ended last week at 494p after managing to shrug off the Liggett announcement.

Liggett unsettled the rest of the industry by admitting for the first time that cigarettes were addictive and offering to turn over a quarter of pre-tax profits for the next 25 years to a fund that will pay out to

smokers who contract an illness and sue. The industry has always denied any addictive qualities for tobacco and insisted the data in health studies linking smoking with disease are unproven.

BAT's tobacco operations, although profitable, have always acted as a drag on the share price because of the possible damage from future litigation, and demerger was being firmly considered as early as last summer.

However, Martin Broughton, BAT's chief executive, has insisted that this or any other deal under consideration would have to be seen to add clear shareholder value before it was considered.

Last summer BAT relaunched its financial services side, which takes in the insurance companies Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar in the UK and Farmers in the US, as British American Financial Services. The company has been in talks over

possible co-operative ventures with a range of other businesses including Commercial Union, but the existence of the tobacco arm has put off potential joint venture partners.

Meanwhile, the drag on the share price has limited BAT's ability to make straight acquisitions in financial services through the issue of new equity. A demerger would allow that arm to go forward, while a deal with other

US tobacco groups to stand firm against litigation would mean future damages and strengthen the tobacco business once the dust had been cut free.

BAT is believed to be considering appointing financial advisers to the tobacco side as a precursor to a split. The group's current brokers are Cazenove and de Zoete & Bevan, owned by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, while its merchant bankers are Lazards and SBC Warburg.

## Prospects for jobs at highest in 7 years

BY PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PROSPECTS for jobs will be at a seven-year high over the general election period, according to an employment survey from the Manpower employment agency today.

The survey, which comes after government figures last week that showed a further big drop in unemployment and continuing job growth, suggests that for the second quarter of this year job prospects remain good.

Of a sample of more than 2,000 employers, 26 per cent forecast an increase in job levels for the three months ending in June, while 12 per cent predict a fall — a net balance of 14 per cent.

The figure is the most optimistic second-quarter forecast produced by Manpower since the start of the decade. It marks an increase of five percentage points on the findings for the same period in 1996.

Regionally, the West Midlands is the most optimistic area, recording a rise of 19 percentage points over the same period last year. While job prospects in the South also look high, London is trailing the national job average, and East Anglia and the North West are the least optimistic areas about jobs in the country.

Ballot 97, page 6

## Thyssen and Krupp draw battle lines

BY OLIVER AUGUST

AN unprecedented £5 billion takeover battle in Germany is expected to turn hostile this week despite intense political pressure on the two companies to agree to a merger.

Thyssen, the steel producer, will today resume talks with Krupp, which made the hostile bid, but both companies continue to prepare for battle.

Helmut Werner, chief executive of Mercedes Benz, chaired secret talks at the weekend between Dieter Vogel, Thyssen's chief executive, and Gerhard Cromme, Krupp's chief executive. Herr Werner, the well-respected elder statesman of German industry, was called in because he is seen as the mediator most likely to bring about a merger.

But in the meantime, executives from both companies have sought the advice of American investment bankers who possess experience of takeover battles. Hostile takeovers are almost unheard of in Germany and German banks have no experience of them. Thyssen has hired Morgan Stanley while Krupp is being advised by Goldman Sachs.

Morgan Stanley is said to have devised a defensive strategy to prevent Krupp from purchasing Thyssen shares at a 25 per cent premium after the end of the talks. The

deadline for talks set by Krupp runs out on Thursday.

Thyssen is also believed to be considering the launch of its own hostile bid for Krupp, which is only half the size of Thyssen. In the past there had been fears that the federal cartel office would object to such a move.

Krupp suggested the framework for the talks last week after its bid was greeted with strong political hostility in Germany, where industrial disputes are expected to be settled through compromise. Politicians and unions accused the Krupp board of behaving like "wild West cowboys".

But Krupp executives are now said to regret making the merger talks offer. They believe that Thyssen executives are only slightly less opposed to a merger than they are to a straight takeover.

Thyssen is suspected of conducting the talks in order to win more time to devise a defence strategy. Krupp has emphasised repeatedly that talks would not be extended beyond Thursday.

Together with the main political parties, Thyssen is also thought to be exerting political pressure on Krupp's bankers, especially Deutsche Bank, not to provide the credit needed to buy a majority of the Thyssen shares.

Both main political parties have a strong interest in

stopping the takeover. The Social Democrats traditionally style themselves as the defenders of manual jobs, thousands of which are set to go if Krupp is successful.

Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats are keen to keep unemployment down in the run-up to next year's general election and in order to bring down welfare spending to meet the Maastricht criteria for a single currency.

Thyssen's works council called on some 50,000 workers to stage a protest tomorrow in Frankfurt, taking their protest to the nation's financial capital. Georg Bongers, the Thyssen works council leader, said: "We are going to Frankfurt because we fear that our future cannot be helped by the democratically elected government in Bonn, but will instead be decided by the banks."

The banks have shown little reaction to the pressure so far. A top Deutsche Bank official may resign from the Thyssen supervisory board after the protests. Ulrich Cartellieri, who represents Deutsche's shareholder interests on the Thyssen board, said: "I will not rule out that I will give up my mandate at the end of the meeting on Thursday."

Studies by Deutsche, Dresdner and Goldman Sachs show a merger could show positive results as early as spring 1998, according to *Der Spiegel*, Germany's news magazine.



Shopping around: a crowded car park yesterday at the Lakeside centre in Essex

## Inflation worries over boom

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, has engineered a pre-election consumer boom that will present the next government with an uncomfortable legacy of rising inflation and a manufacturing sector suffering under an uncompetitive exchange rate, the Oxford Economic Forecasting says.

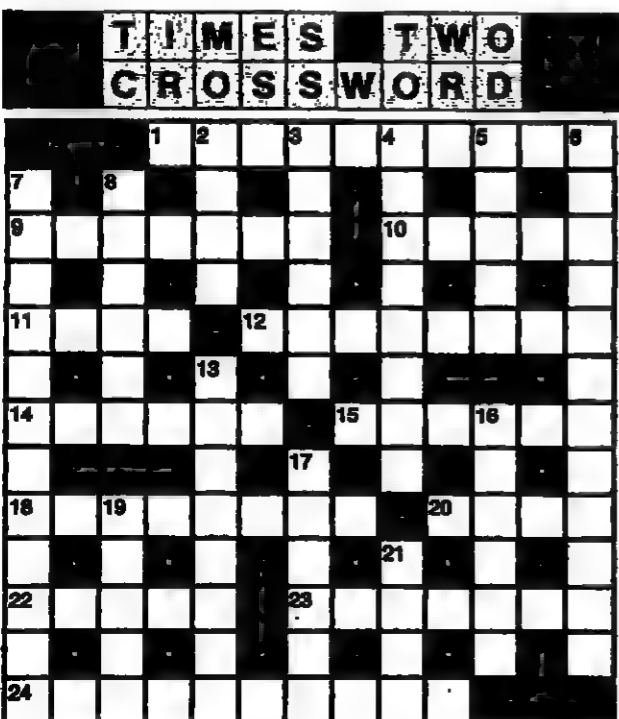
Oxford assumes the boom will not deliver an election victory to the Conservatives and that a Labour government is set for a bumpy economic ride over the next two years, with immediate upward pressure on base rates.

In 1997, growth is likely to strengthen further in the short term, led by buoyant consumer demand fuelled by tax cuts, low interest rates, rapidly falling unemployment and building society windfalls. Oxford predicts consumer spending to rise 4.2 per cent this year.

But then growth is expected to be curbed by a continued rally in sterling that will make exporting more difficult and hold back investment. Strong domestic demand and weaker exports are expected to mean that net trade becomes a serious drag on growth, increasing Britain's current account deficit to £6 billion in 1997, from £1.5 billion in 1996.

Overall, the economy is predicted to grow 3.1 per cent this year, but then fall to only 1.8 per cent in 1998. It is next year when the impact of the pound on exports is likely to be felt most and, at the same time, consumers will be hit by higher interest rates.

Economic outlook, page 43



No 1049

### ACROSS

- 1 Miss stroke (rowing) (5,1,4)
- 9 Passage: end of plane trip (7)
- 10 (Noise) cleared: (fuse) burned out (5)
- 11 Pic: 2 dn (4)
- 12 War memorial (8)
- 14 Peak (6)
- 15 Due from son (6)
- 18 Weak-headed hero (8)
- 20 Difficult (4)
- 22 Diplomat: messenger (5)
- 23 Denseness: unintelligibility (7)
- 24 Amuse delightfully (6,4)

### DOWN

- 2 Sharp; biting (4)
- 3 James — US gangster-film star (6)
- 4 Food of the gods (8)
- 5 A Spanish red (5)
- 6 Statutory days off (4,8)
- 7 First part of Bible (3,9)
- 8 NE-most Irish county (6)
- 13 Unfaithful (8)
- 16 Sloping, emphatic type (6)
- 17 Get back (expenses) (6)
- 19 Devastation, chaos (5)
- 21 Admonish (4)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1048

ACROSS: 1 Body 3 Offender 8 Rave 9 Fabulous 11 Basketball 14 Cruise 15 Demise 17 Financiers 20 Surprise 21 Puce 22 Apposite 23 Desk  
DOWN: 1 Bareback 2 Davis Cup 4 Flambe 5 Ebullience 6 Doom 7 Rose 10 Versailles 12 Sincere 13 Newspaper 16 Fat cat 18 Asia 19 Prop

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# Bonn hangs up party balloons but Kohl's credit runs out with Club Med



Horst Haitzinger's view of Kohl and Theo Waigel as pained parents as Germany shouts: "Hoorah, I've failed again"

We are all invited, even the surly party-poopers of the British contingent, to attend the 40th birthday celebration of an old friend, the Treaty of Rome. The European Commission, which is paying for the Bonn event this week — free balloons, raffle tickets and a panel discussion on the euro — has decided to stage the party in the German Modern History Museum, not far from the office of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The message is obvious: the Treaty of Rome has been good for Germany. Twelve years after the conclusion of a devastating war, it handed Bonn a ticket to respectability. German politicians thus have a special duty to other founder members, including Italy. Everything that Herr Kohl is doing, however, suggests Germany is preparing to discard this responsibility.

Foreign ministers travel to Rome tomorrow for the official treaty anniversary. The mood is

likely to be less than jolly. There is no mistaking the tension between Germany and Italy as the decisions on economic and monetary union creep up fast. The situation recalls schooldays on the sports pitch when two captains were told to choose their teams from a huddled mass. I was one of the last to be picked and so my heart beats for Club Med as Captain Kohl, the great selector, switches his reluctant gaze to the no-hopers.

Herr Kohl's official line is that the choice for EMU will be made only in April 1998 after the French have staggered through their elections. In truth, everything is happening more quickly and all ministerial or Bund-

## INSIDE

Roger  
Boyes

## GERMANY

esbank indiscretions seem to smack of a pre-selection. Those in Bonn who argue for a delay after the 1997 tax projections are available in May; that month's unemployment figures should also signal whether Bonn is able to meet Maastricht public spending targets. To protect EMU the markets have to be given local anaesthetic. That means either signposting a postponement strategy by the end of the year — or alerting and soothing those countries left out of a small but perfectly performed EMU start-up in 1999. Herr Kohl, sadly, is not up to either task. Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minis-

ter, spotted this quickly, urging Herr Kohl to show more leadership on EMU.

Germany, once a measuring rod for Italy and Spain, has become an object of suspicion. Herr Kohl's twin aims of creating an EMU acceptable to the German people and of enlarging Europe eastwards are seen as directly hostile to the interests of the Mediterranean states.

The Kohl bridge to the South was concentrated too heavily on his personal friendship with Felipe González and was little more than gesture politics, a hint that Southerners need not look solely to France for their champion in Europe. The Government's true evaluation of the South was probably best exposed in the 1994 Schäuble-Lamers Christian Democratic strategy paper, which made plain that Spain, Portugal and Italy could not expect to become members of the "hard core" in

the near future. Opinion polls show this to be a popular line with the business community and the population generally.

Herr Kohl's personal tone does not reassure his Southern partners. After Spanish and Italian summits recently, he tried clumsily to position the South closer to German hearts: the place where millions of fellow countrymen lay their beach towels every summer. He thus ignored the South's message: that their efforts to meet the EMU criteria must be taken seriously.

As long as the German economy splutters unhappily, so Herr Kohl's right to pose as a team captain will be questioned by the stragglers. Spain, while disdaining the Club Med label, can see that the South, united, can block all of Herr Kohl's favourite projects if Southerners are put on the reserve bench. Captain Kohl, it seems, is losing his goal-scoring touch. Time, perhaps, for a transfer.

# Russians attack Yeltsin over Nato concessions

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A STORM of protest greeted President Yeltsin when he returned from his summit meeting in Helsinki at the weekend as opposition leaders condemned his agreements with President Clinton as "capitulation" and "betrayal".

Even before the Russian leader's jet touched down in Moscow, headline Communists predicted that Mr Yeltsin's failure to halt Nato's expansion plans would lead to Russia's isolation and a re-division of Europe.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, who came second in last year's presidential race, said that plans to grant Russia a consultative role at Nato effectively meant that the Kremlin was being admitted "no further than Nato's cloakroom".

"The Helsinki agreements were effectively a Treaty of Versailles for Russia," said Mr Zyuganov, comparing Russia's present alliance to that of Germany after its defeat in the First World War. "We have no trust in our President, who cannot plan two steps in advance and is guilty of com-

pletely betraying the national interests of the country."

Although his response was predictable, the Communists were not the only critics of Helsinki, and aside from a few liberal deputies in parliament most of the political establishment has come out strongly against Nato's expansion plans into East Europe.

Even Mr Yeltsin, who "agreed to disagree" with Mr Clinton, sounded less enthusiastic about the modest achievements of his two-day summit. In particular America's refusal to rule out one day admitting former Soviet republics into Nato. "Not every-

thing went smoothly during the talks," he told reporters on Saturday. "We could not come to an agreement on several questions, such as the former Soviet nations not joining Nato." Even some apparent achievements on economic co-operation and arms control, announced by the two leaders on Friday, seemed less certain by yesterday.

A plan to slash strategic nuclear missiles to a ceiling of 2,500 warheads each by 2007, under a Start 3 treaty, looked far less likely since the reductions can take place only once the current Start 2 agreement is ratified by Russia's parliament.

It is inconceivable that the assembly, dominated by the left-wing and nationalist Opposition, would pass the vote in the present political climate.

Similarly, a pledge by Mr Clinton to grant Russia a seat at the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations' summit is facing resistance. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, said yesterday that tackling global economic problems should still be restricted to the original seven members.

However, it was not clear how much time Mr Yeltsin would devote to examining the results of his summit meeting, particularly since he has very pressing domestic problems awaiting his attention.

In his absence, the new reformist Government has grown increasingly concerned about the possible disruption, and the threat of violence, as a result of a national strike called for Thursday by millions of workers protesting at the non-payment of nearly £6 billion in wages.

## Belarus protest rally

Minsk About 10,000 people marched to a "Day of Freedom" rally yesterday, the latest in a series of protests against the Soviet-style rule of President Lukashenko. Police used batons and teargas in an attempt to halt the unauthorised march, sponsored by the opposition Belarusian Popular Front, but did not try to stop the rally itself.

Among about 300 detained for taking part in the march were the First Secretary of the American Embassy, Sergei Alexandrov, an ethnic Belarusian, and a former Interior Minister, Yuri Zakharenko, Interfax news agency reported.

Some demonstrators carried signs reading "We love Nato". (AP)

Leading article, page 21



A man, his mouth taped in protest at China's treatment of the pro-democracy movement, marks the start of the final 100 days of British rule in Hong Kong

# Kohl vows to meet target on currency

By Roger Boyes

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday tried to quash all talk of delaying the 1999 start of European economic and monetary union and called on Germans to pull together to keep the single currency on schedule.

The German Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, joined in the chorus of support for a punctual EMU and hinted at further austerity measures, including cuts in social benefits, to achieve the Maastricht criteria on public spending.

The German Government has clearly been unmoved by the growing appeal for postponing monetary union. Several trade union leaders have come out against a 1999 start, as have some central and private bankers, the most popular Social Democrat politician Gerhard Schröder, and a handful of the most influential newspaper editors.

Herr Kohl, who yesterday travelled to Bad Hofgastein for his annual fasting cure — when he eats only dry bread rolls — made his strongest attempt yet to promote the Maastricht timetable. "There can be no talk of a delay," he told the Sunday edition of *Die Welt*.

"Many of the self-appointed experts want a delay only so that the whole project can be put on ice. Others seem to get cold feet as soon as the wind blows in their face."

"Nothing has changed in my determination to fulfil the Maastricht criteria so that economic and monetary union can begin on time," the Chancellor added.

# Chinese cheer for the last 100 days

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

HUNDREDS of people, some carrying banners like "Hong Kong comes home", cheered in Tiananmen Square as a huge electronic clock marking the number of days until China takes over the colony turned to 100 at midnight on Saturday.

Official newspapers carried front-page stories over the impending end of British colonial rule. "We have endured 100 years of shame, 100 years of resistance and 100 years of waiting," said the *Guangming Daily*. "Now, in another 100 days, the hopes of generations will be realised."

The *People's Daily*, flagship newspaper of the Communist

Party, gave up much of its front page to the occasion and the role played in it by the paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, who died last month aged 92 before he could realise his ambition to see Hong Kong under Chinese rule.

It was the late leader who formulated the "one country, two systems" policy under which Hong Kong is to be administered for the next 50 years. "At this moment, we think even more fondly of Deng Xiaoping," the newspaper said.

In Hong Kong, thousands of residents took part in parades, rallies and other celebrations to mark the beginning of the last 100 days of British colonial rule. At the largest event, a crowd of about 7,000 snaked its way through the busy Wanchai district, waving Chinese flags and those of the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

A handful of pro-democracy protesters, dressed in black with their mouths symbolically taped, held a protest around a statue of Queen Victoria, the monarch when Britain took Hong Kong, and carried banners protesting against the Tiananmen Square massacre by the Communist regime's troops in 1989.

Many in Hong Kong are taking a wait-and-see attitude to the handover, although China's stated plans to scrap and replace the elected legislature and to water down key local rights laws have evoked nervousness at home and protest abroad.

China ceded Hong Kong island to Britain in 1842 under the Treaty of Nanking after the Opium War, and Britain later added to its territory.

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## Mightier than the computer

In a hi-tech age, Joseph Connolly maintains a firm grip on his pen

This article was written by hand, with a green Ball Point pen, on three lined foolscap sheets of paper in a red ringbound Silvine notebook, as was every piece I have ever written. My new novel, *Stuff*, was written in exactly the same way (all 110,000 words of it), as were its two predecessors. I am therefore either the very last dinosaur to roam the earth, or else poised at the very cutting edge of what may be termed the "new nostalgia". In America not only are mechanical typewriters staging a dramatic comeback, but work is in hand in some San Francisco design company to produce a \$5,000 computer that mimics not only the typefaces of the old Olivettis and Remingtons but also the quirky light and shade (depending on the strength in one's wrists) and all the wonky imperfections. If this catches on it is only a matter of a very short time before pen and ink sweep back triumphantly in all their blotchy splendour — and there I'll be, cool and at the forefront.

It is true that I drive people crazy with my total disregard for all things electronic. People get very vexed that they can't fax me, and have to address an envelope instead. I'm currently redrafting a screenplay and the production company is tearing out its hair at the sight of my Cowgummed inserts.

I used to think I was just old enough to get away with all this, but now I'm not so sure how long can I last? *The Times* still operates this marvelous system where I can read my stuff over the phone to copy-takers who are sometimes so brilliantly speedy that it's difficult to keep up with them, and at other times... well, I have to watch what I write here, because it's got to be read over the phone to a copy-taker.

When I have finished writing a novel (generally about 450 longhand fools-

cap pages) it is such a scrawled out, rejigged, plastered mess that no one but I could read it (sometimes with difficulty), so it is I who must type it out. Any chance, asks my publishers, Faber and Faber, of having it on disk? None. I say — I am a writer, I am not in the record business.

My son Charles is 13 this week and I have agreed to buy him his very first computer (all his friends, he tells me, have owned at least two since soon after their conception). Once one has assimilated the awful truth that it is going to set one back at least a grand, one begins to have a glance at just what one might get for one's money. Here it is: "Pentium Intel HX Chipset Motherboard (FX for PROS)". OK, fairly exciting so far — never in my life has any member of my family come even close to owning a Chipset Motherboard — but you also get a Hard Drive (fast EIDE mode 4, if you want the whole truth) as well as — my favourite — 256K Pipeline Burst Cache (which is, should you be worried, upgradable). That there are windows hardly needs to be said. Oh — and you can get a printer with Epson Microdot, which sounds a bit like an asylum. (Bubblejet sounds a lot more fun, but you probably mustn't swallow it.)

Now look — all this either makes perfect sense to you, or else you need the solace of a darkened room in which to wonder just how hijacked the OED. It's just like a solicitor's letter, isn't it? You know what each word means, but how in blue blazes to make sense of it all? Of course, it could be just me (I'm still flummoxed by golfballs and daisy wheels, but at least they suggest a fun day out. I'd love an explanation of it all; could someone, maybe, write it down for me?)

● *Stuff* Faber and Faber £14.99 (not available on disk).



The rumour between Ian Schrager, left, and Brian McNally has been likened to the manager and the maître d' of Claridge's having a custard-pie fight in front of the Queen Mother

## Bun fight in New York

A highly public row between two restaurateurs is giving New Yorkers their best laugh in ages. Quentin Letts reports

At sleek "44", the minimalist dining room of New York's trendy Royalton Hotel, where the smart set grazes on green leaves at lunchtime and you can almost bite into the power, there has just been the most embarrassing and — well — hilarious row.

It involves Brian McNally, Manhattan's best-loved Cockney, and it has set Midtown afire. McNally, a pugnacious restaurateur, has run "44" since 1991. He rents the space from the Royalton's cool-nosed proprietor Ian Schrager, America's über-hoteller, as he would perhaps call himself, who will shortly open four hotels in London.

With his English wit and his crumpled charm, McNally has made ill-lit "44" the best

networking venue in the New World. Chic restaurateurs these days have pop star status and the celebrities who frequent "44" — such as Calvin Klein, Kevin Costner, John Kennedy, Madonna and Anna Wintour — regard McNally as one of their own. Many of them think similarly highly of Schrager, who made his name in the Seventies when he and the late, louche Steve Rubell ran the nightclub Studio 54. Bianca Jagger rode her white charger there, Salvador Dali twiddled his tash and the place became a byword for Bacchanalian revels. Schrager and Rubell did a year in prison

after the financial collapse of Studio 54, but somehow that only added to their allure. Given the close business arrangement between the two men, onlookers suspected that Brian McNally and Ian Schrager must be friends. They are, or rather, they were... until the start of this month, when Schrager unaccountably launched a vitriolic attack. Interviewed in *New York* magazine, Schrager accused McNally of being a lack of character, of being "fake", a failure, down at heel, "inept". It was an extraordinary performance, even by the pot-hurling standards of the restaurant trade.

The rumour has now turned nastier. Speaking properly for the first time about Schrager's attack, McNally scratched his touselled, greyish hair and let loose a torrent. From Britain it may be difficult to gauge just how big a row this is, but imagine the general manager and the maître d' of Claridge's having a custard-pie fight in that fine hotel's dining-room in the middle of a busy lunchtime, bang in front of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and you just about have it.

"Ian gets so uptight," said McNally. "It is ludicrous. We have known each other for 20 years. He just came a little unhinged, a bit hysterical. Mind you, that is often not far below the surface. He has been so stupid, and unprofessional. He has had a nervous breakdown in public and it just doesn't look good. Since that article appeared I have had calls from EVERYONE, even from friends of Ian who have said they are not going to be his friend any more. Even Calvin Klein, who was quoted as attacking me. He rang up to say how embarrassed he was. He's a very nice man, Calvin, you know. Said he was mortified by what Ian had said. Mortified."

The row began after Schrager dumped McNally from a couple of projects that they had been thinking of doing together. McNally, in something of a masterstroke, then infuriated Schrager by announcing that he and one of Schrager's other New York associates, Philip Pilevsky, were going to start a hotel in newly fashionable Miami. Their place, which will open next year, is a block and a half down the beach from Schrager's highly successful Delano Hotel. "Ian is worried about the competition," said McNally. "He knows we're going to do a good job and he is not generous in spirit."

McNally, 46, has come a long way since his schooldays at a grammar school in London's Mile End. In the Sixties and early Seventies, after a brief stint in the City, he hit the hippy trail, sowed his oats in free-love Denmark, and eventually washed up in the New York of 1977, dressed in flared trousers and a tie-dyed T-shirt. His brother

Keith, who is still in the restaurant trade in New York, was then running the hot venue of the time, One Fifth Avenue. Young Brian became the barman.

The Eighties were good to him. He opened some of the busiest and most celebrated New York restaurants of the decade, including Odeon, the Canal Bar and Indochine, until disaster struck with a place called 150 Wooster.

"It was the coolest restaurant in the world — for about a minute and a half," he recalled with a wry laugh. It cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars and put him out of action for "a year in the wilderness". During that time he learnt the realities of New York business life. When you're down, few bother to help you.

He accepted "44" at the urging of Anna Wintour, the British-born Editor of *American Vogue*. The Royalton, which like Schrager's other hotels is over-styled, uncomfortable, but popular with the easily led, was doing all right at the time. Its restaurant, however, was dreadful: bad service, uninteresting food, worse people. McNally went into overdrive, called up all his old friends, many of whom, during his year of exile, had risen high in the media, movies, music and similar fields. Slowly the place picked up, and he has now turned an annual take of \$3 million into something approaching \$7.5 million. Not bad for a place with only 30 tables.

Go there any lunchtime today and you can expect to see Hollywood producers, publishing moguls and political hitters.

Harry Evans will be lunching an author at one table. Norman Mailer will be sucking on a fish bone at another. When Condé Nast's boss Si Newhouse enters, the room turns as one to see his guest. "Here comes his Royal Si-gness," people whisper. Not that Schrager is now seen very often in his own hotel. "He's hardly been in since his outburst," said McNally. "He must be embarrassed."

Schrager picked Brian McNally to run "44" because he thought that the amusing Brit had the makings of a second Steve Rubell — his late partner from Studio 54 (although McNally, let us

emphasise is straight, sexually and in business). "Brian was really down on his luck at the time," Schrager told *New York* magazine. "I gave him a break. He blew it." Schrager has now taken up with a new associate, the strikingly handsome Rande Gerber, who is sometimes linked romantically to Cindy Crawford.

Ask Schrager today if McNally is comparable to Rubell and he will shrug that he is not. McNally should be relieved. For, as that old barfly Anthony Haden-Guest, recalls in his forthcoming book *The Last Party*, Studio 54 crashed after disclosures that Rubell attracted the hip crowd by giving them money and drugs. "When Rubell and Schrager appeared in front of the US District Judge Richard Owen for sentencing on January 18, 1980," writes Haden-Guest, "the judge blitzed them for their 'tremendous arrogance'."

When Schrager reached prison, one of his jobs was to cut two miles of grass beneath a chain-link fence — for which task he was given a pair of scissors. Since his release in January 1981 he has achieved a spectacular return to social and business prominence, and he now has several millions in the bank. But did prison sour him?

Schrager laughs at McNally, with that odd American snobbery, for not being financially independent. "I couldn't give a toss," says McNally. "I have a nicer life than he does." Perhaps he still misses Steve Rubell, or perhaps he simply misreads the irony in McNally's boyish sense of humour. Even though McNally has been in New York so long, his residue of British nonchalance and cheeky iconoclasm seems alien to the Nineties New York business world. If Schrager's London hotels are going to be a success, he may need to learn how to handle Brits.

But all this is probably to take too seriously what remains a thoroughly watchable spat. Like old cronies thwacking each other over the head with their brooms, these two are giving New York its best laugh for ages. Long may it continue.

You can expect to see Hollywood producers and political hitters.

He opened the most celebrated restaurants in New York

be lunching an author at one table. Norman Mailer will be sucking on a fish bone at another. When Condé Nast's boss Si Newhouse enters, the room turns as one to see his guest. "Here comes his Royal Si-gness," people whisper. Not that Schrager is now seen very often in his own hotel. "He's hardly been in since his outburst," said McNally. "He must be embarrassed."

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With mop, bucket and sewing basket, a new generation of women is rediscovering domesticity

# The pleasures of housework

**Y**ou know the feeling. You're sitting upstairs, at your desk (because you work at home), staring at your computer screen, drooping over your typewriter, attempting to attend to MailMerge or PhotoShop, or simply trying to construct a decent sentence. It is that long, long hour before lunch — too early to eat, can't have another cup of coffee already, and you're probably trying to give up smoking. The screen won't construct, the screen blurs before your eyes... and then you hear it.

It is a siren song, threading its way up the stairs from the kitchen, perhaps, or the downstairs loo, or from the skirting boards by the front door. Clean me, says the song, like the instruction on Alice's bottle. Clean me. If everything were clean you could concentrate, you could be secure in the knowledge that all was bright and gleaming, a very mirror of the mind you wish you had.

Anyway, it's something to do. It's better than this sitting around. And when you have finished, when there is dust in your hair and Jif under your fingernails and the skirting boards are no longer neglected and the scummy ring around the bath has vanished, you have, to your delight, accomplished something.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way about housework. Certainly not. If I go by the smiling faces that gleam out from *Every Home Should Have One*, by Jan Boxhall, which is published to celebrate the 75th anniversary of *Good Housekeeping* magazine, Chief among its delights is the advertising, reproduced from down the decades, that promise "Present pleasure and future freedom" (the young mistress of the house, in her becoming flapper-style dress, caresses her Electrolux vacuum-cleaner while Dad and Son — clearly the givers of this splendid gift — peer mischievously from behind the curtains) and that there will be "Time for the pictures on wash-day".

After the end of the First World War, when young working-class women discovered alternatives to going "into service", bewildered middle-class housewives had to learn how to run a servitude house with the help of new appliances from toasters, to Hoover, to dishwashers.

Of course, there are still plenty of people who absolutely detest the idea of having to look after themselves. Rumours that the glamorous Kennedy-Bessette marriage was on the rocks were accom-

panied by tales that they were rowing over who did the washing-up; the Austrian Government recently considered drawing up "rules of engagement" for couples before they married, in order to ensure that husbands did their fair share and therefore decrease — or so it was hoped — the rate of divorce.

Last year a woman in Oregon decided she'd had enough and devised a self-cleaning house. "You open a valve, punch a button and it washes your ceilings, walls, floors, windows, curtains, your furniture, your dirty clothes. And then it dries them." Rather like, one imagines, those loos in Leicester Square.

But what about those of us who — hush! hush! whisper who dares! — are actually fond of our mops and brooms?

When I was at college, I earned some extra money cleaning, a couple of mornings a week. I loved it. The homes of university lecturers, I suppose, are not renowned for tidiness; when I arrived, all would be chaos, streaks of babyfood on kitchen cabinets, rumpled sheets and streaky windows.

When I left there was order and calm. My task had been straightforward, vigorous, and I always knew I had done a good job. And I got to shout at the curmudgeons on *Call Nick Ross*. Life has rarely been so straightforward again.

**N**ow that I don't work at home, someone cleans it for me, and my own cleaning is mostly confined to tidying my desk at the office. There is no longer time to consult *The Book of Hints and Winkles for the Home or Household Hints and Handy Tips*, treasured volumes on my shelves.

Of course, even I think housework can be a chore, and have a dejected sigh when I read that a recent British Social Attitudes Survey revealed that mothers spend nearly 18 hours a week more than fathers on household tasks. There are a lot of Electrolux-buys men in *Good Housekeeping's* history, but not a lot of them standing by the stove and smiling.

"How many knobs do you really need?" asks a washing-machine ad from this decade, and gives us, as an image of the male in the home, Michelangelo's *David* with a modest garland of fig leaves. Change in the home? Yes, of course. One in five women worked outside the home in the 1950s; by the 1980s it was one in two, and *Good Housekeeping* no longer has to explain the



Erica Wagner: life, she says, is rarely ever so straightforward as when you are wielding a broom

miracle of the electric toaster. But some things seem disconcertingly consistent across the years. Pat Roberts Cairns, the Editor of *Good Housekeeping*, admits that the "New Man" is a novelty, nationwide. "But is that because of us? A lot of working women striving for perfection tend to think we can do everything; but if we were willing to delegate we could probably do less."

And what we think we can do well, we often like to do: Demos's survey, *Tomorrow's Women*, released recently, re-

ports a turn away from an entirely career-orientated life: "If superwoman provided a dominant image of womanhood in the 1980s, a more balanced model may be taking over in the late 1990s."

But this isn't about social issues. This is about the simple pleasure of elbow grease. So if you'll excuse me, I'm going to leave early and clean the fridge.

© *Every Home Should Have One*, by Jan Boxhall, is published by Ebury Press on March 6, £16.99.

ERICA WAGNER

## A rising hum of sewing bees as the Singers are dusted off

**H**OME SEWING — good, old-fashioned, thumb-pricking, cotton-twiddling sewing — is making a comeback in the United States. A growing army of American women are dusting down their Singer sewing machines and reacquainting themselves with those neglected needlework skills they learnt at school.

After 20 years as a top model, Lauren Hutton must own several closets full of designer clothes. Yet she chooses to make many of her dresses by hand, and she is not alone.

The actress Daphne Maxwell Reid, best known to

British teenagers as Aunt Vivian in the television series *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, is typical of the new home-sewer. At the moment she is making a blue and black suit in raw Thai silk, from a McCall pattern. She plans to wear it when she attends an award banquet in Los Angeles.

Why does she sew when she could easily afford an original Vera Wang? "I really don't like to pay too much when I know what the real value of a dress should be," she explained. "I know the cost of the fabric, and the time it takes to make a garment. I can't justify that sort of overspending. Also I'm what you'd call buxom, which means I can buy a size 12 pattern and modify the bust to a size 14. And the clothes in the stores are never in the colours that I like — red, canary yellow or emerald green. That year when every-

thing in the stores was either olive green or beige. I just didn't shop."

Years of blue-jeans dressing and the 1980s mania for flaunting labels made home sewers an endangered species. But when the recession hit, American women became canny about their pennies, and immersed themselves in all manner of DIY projects. Martha Stewart, in her television programme, showed her sister how to run up a frock with one hand and repair an old lampshade with the other. Feminists wrote about the fashion for the home projects as an example of women regaining pride in their grandmothers' lost skills. Haberdashers reported brisk business again.

Louis Morris, the chief executive of Simplicity Patterns, says this is a long-term trend. "Business is excellent. The industry is growing at about 3 to 5 per cent a year, and it's going to pick up even more."

More than \$5 billion was spent on sewing in 1992, up 21.4 per cent from 1987. A third of the country's adult female population now sews.

Why, with the recession over, are young women turning to the pattern books? Saving money, it seems, is no longer the primary reason. It came only third in a survey conducted by the American Home Sewing and Craft Association (AHS).

"First was the sense of accomplishment women gain from making something themselves, and second they say it relaxes them," said Beth Mauro, of the AHS. "The whole idea of sewing to save money is out of date."

"Women are now looking to create heirloom quality items. The new sewers are professional women. They're buying homes, having children, and they want to sew for their children. These are the new faces in sewing classes across the country."

Sewing classes, like the old quilting bees, also provide an environment where women can get together and gossip about their families and careers. Sewing chat groups have sprung up on the Internet, so women can share information. In effect, the Net has created an international sewing bee.

It helps, too, that designers have smartened up their act. Through *Vogue Patterns*, women can now buy the latest dress in pattern form, six months after it appears on the catwalk — about the same time it reaches the shops.

It is mainly women who sew. But children are leading the way to sexual equality. Pat Healden, who teaches evening classes in Hartsdale, New York, says sewing in schools took a back seat in the 1970s and 1980s, when educators became excited about computer science. Only now are they beginning to realise their mistake. "Sewing is for survival. It's like cooking. Yes, it would be nice to eat out every night. But you need to know how to make a sandwich."

LOIS LETTS

**M**argaret Thatcher started it all those staged photographs of her scrubbing the kitchen, painting walls and pushing a vacuum cleaner around No 10 were an inspiration for a generation of working women. If the warrior woman herself could find time to do a spot of housework amid the sound and fury of public life, then so could they.

Seventy-five years have passed since *Good Housekeeping* was launched with the declaration that: "There should be no drudgery in the house. There must be time to think, to read, to enjoy life." Admirable sentiments, but in these manic, hyperactive days wildly unrealistic, too.

*Good Housekeeping* estimates that the typical working woman spends 25 hours a week on housework. Paid domestic labour may be a big growth industry in two-earner households, but just as many women are choosing to be their own housekeepers.

Malandra Burrows, an actress and singer who works on the ITV soap *Emmerdale*, says: "Like most modern women I have a busy, hectic schedule. In some weeks we have to film as many as five episodes of *Emmerdale* — which leaves very little time for anything else. And yet, the acting world can be so superficial and insecure that I like to feel rooted in domesticity. Having my own home [she lives alone in a large five-bedroom detached house in Leeds] and doing my own housework is a link to a way of life that my grandmother would have recognised."

"As well as being dull and boring, housework is trivial, relaxing and extremely therapeutic. I like it. I think there is a longing in the psyche of many actors to be ordinary — and doing the daily chores is one way of achieving that."

Val Tyler, of the Industrial Society, says that the cost of domestic help can be prohibitively expensive, especially as most working women would rather pay for a nanny than a housekeeper. A fully-trained nanny can cost as much as £300 a week. Which doesn't leave much for anything else.

"There is no doubt that more and more working women are choosing not to employ cleaners," she says. "At first, I think the depression of the early 1990s had something to do with this — many families couldn't afford that additional expense."

But what we are seeing now is a sociological change, one that reflects the change in family life, and the

increasing domestication of men. [A recent study calculates that male partners of working women do an average of 13 hours of housework a week.]

"Then, of course, there is a deeper, what I call biological, drive, perverse though it may sound, many women enjoy housework. It's in their hormones."

Allison Halstead, 25, is another young woman who does her own housework. She lives with her boyfriend, the press photographer Stefan Rousseau, in a spacious flat in Wansstead, east London, and works a 50-hour week at Talk Radio. She used to spend £80 a month on a cleaner but felt guilty about it, not because she could not afford the outlay but because she felt that what she was doing was an abdication of responsibility — her responsibility as a woman.

### Doing the chores satisfies a longing in our psyche

"My mother never had a cleaner, even though we had quite a large house and a lot of land. She ran her own catering business, so was always on the go. When I first started work I couldn't cope. I had to have a cleaner. But once I'd gone through my sixth one in six months, I realised that something was wrong. And that something was that I was actually missing housework. In fact, on the evenings before the mornings that my home-help arrived, I would actually spend time tidying up my flat so that it was clean for the cleaner."

Allison's boyfriend has completely remodelled their flat since the couple moved in. "He is extremely handy and has put so much time into the house that I want to contribute something too. At least, that's what I tell him. I enjoy it really."

Lilly Shears, 55, who runs her own alternative health business in Hertfordshire, has also experimented with cleaners without success. "The problem was that my helpers never did the cleaning as I wanted. What most annoyed me was their tendency to rearrange the ornaments without actually dusting beneath them. In the end, I decided that if you want a job done properly you should do it yourself. There is nothing wrong with finding self-fulfilment in self-sufficiency."

So, 75 years after hearing the clarion call of liberation, women are once again picking up their buckets and mops — only this time it appears to be their choice.

JASON COWLEY

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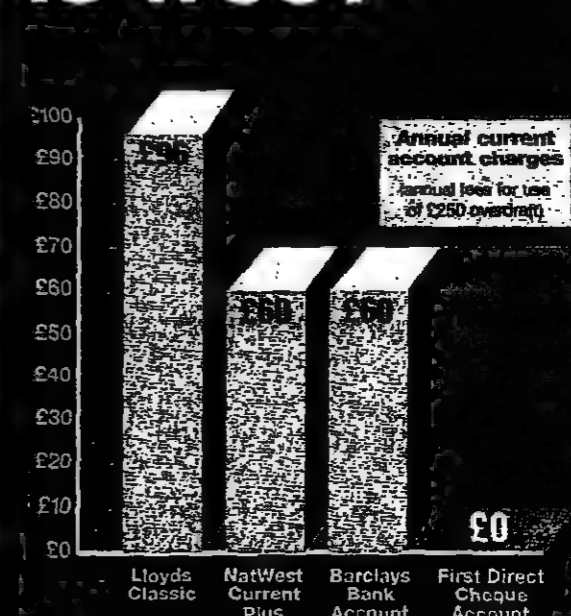
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## THEATRE

Mad monarch time for Ian Holm as he takes the title role in *King Lear* at the National Theatre

OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday

## FILM

Strictly Bard room: Baz Luhrmann gives a contemporary flavour to *Romeo and Juliet*

OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday

## BOOKS

A thousand years from now: Arthur C. Clarke turns the clock forward to 3001

IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Saturday

## OPERA

Catherine Malfitano goes headhunting as *Salome* comes back to the Royal Opera House

OPENS: Saturday  
REVIEW: Monday

**ARTS**  
TUESDAY TO  
FRIDAY  
IN SECTION 2

# Battle of the ballerinas

DANCE: Debra Craine on the first night of Covent Garden's enjoyable revival of *La Bayadère*

This is a tricky ballet to get right. With its lavishly exotic setting, its grandiose and his melodramatic scenario and its hilariously incongruous Viennese melodies, *La Bayadère* can easily be dismissed as a kitsch potboiler. Enjoyable kitsch, yes, as indeed this revival is. But Petipa's 1877 oriental spectacle is more than that. It's the heartbreaking tale of poor Nikiya, the Indian temple dancer — the bayadère — betrayed by her warrior lover and murdered by her royal rival. And her dance at their betrothal festivities is one of profound sadness. Or at least it should be.

The problem on Saturday, opening night of the Royal Ballet's revival of Natalia Makarova's production, was one of casting. Covent Garden fielded its two biggest female stars — Sylvie Guillem and Doreen Bussell — in the leading roles. But, as it turned out, they probably should have swapped places.

Guillem, for all her extraordinary talents, is not the ballerina to play Nikiya. Although she generated some wonderful moments of spontaneous delight in her first pas de deux with Jonathan Cope's Solor, her own personality as a dancer quickly got in the way. Her style is too ornate and ostentatious for a humble bayadère, her demeanour too grand to be reconciled with Nikiya's essential modesty. Indeed, Guillem possesses all the glamour and impetuosity that rightly belong to Gamzatti, the Rajah's daughter who steals Solor away from Nikiya. This was the part taken by Bussell, who was

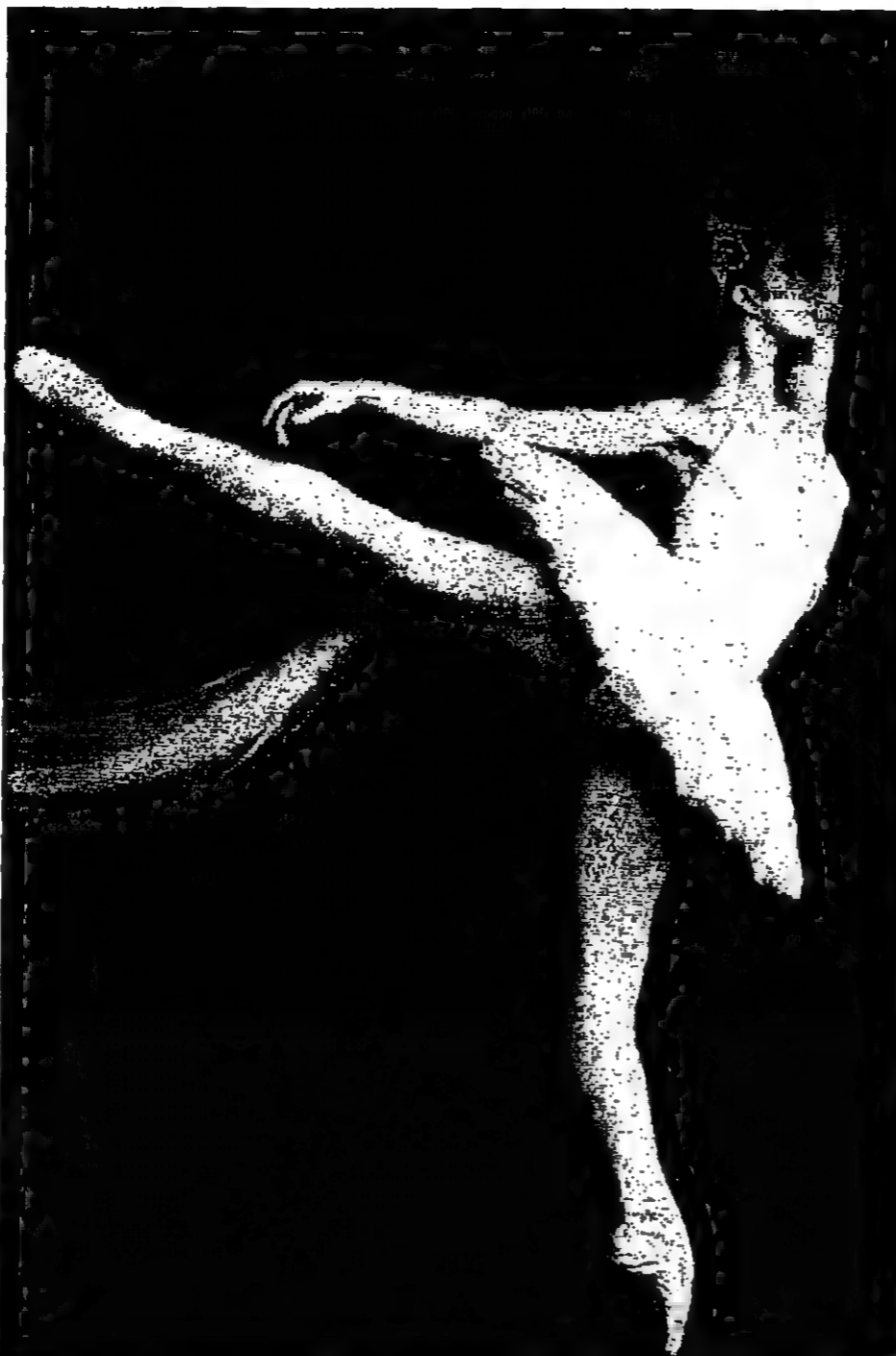
more than happy with the difficult choreography, but not quite so effective in a role that requires her to subdue her natural benevolence.

Gamzatti and Solor's "do" in the palace garden is one of the highlights of the ballet, the scene in which the flashiest dancing takes place. Divergent, solos and pas de deux busy a stage already brimful with partygoers. Bussell and Cope shone at the centre of it all, delivering generous and confident phrases of exciting dance.

Guillem's entry into the festivities announced that trouble was on the horizon. But the torment of Solor's betrayal was acted out by Guillem in an introspective solo that failed to ignite the tragedy of Nikiya's situation.

And the subsequent Kingdom of the Shades, which finds the dead Nikiya staring in Solor's guilt-ridden, opium-induced hallucination, produced a surprisingly blank interpretation from Guillem, almost as if she could find no meaning in what is one of the most evocative scenes in 19th-century Russian ballet.

As the man in the middle of two formidable women, a dashing Cope seemed to be having a whale of a time. His initial scenes with Guillem were driven by a convincing ardour, and he had the decency later to look ashamed of himself for agreeing to marry Gamzatti. The production as a whole looked revived, the cast having been coached by Makarova, and aside from a brief attack of the shakes, the Shades made a convincing case for themselves.



Sylvie Guillem: miscast as Nikiya in the Royal Ballet's revival of *La Bayadère*

FLORENCE revived Haydn's *Orfeo*, also known as *L'anima del filosofo*, for Maria Callas in the early 1950s. She sang only two performances before deciding that Euridyce was not for her. Haydn must shoulder some of the blame. *Orfeo* is a clumsily constructed piece, as far as the lead soprano is concerned and he might well have tinkered with his only London-commissioned opera had it been performed in his lifetime, which it was not.

Euridyce's death from the bite of a poisonous serpent inspired Haydn to one of his most powerful and dramatic numbers. But that comes midway through Act II and three more acts follow during which Euridyce scarcely gets a look in. Felony is compounded. In Act III Haydn gives the second soprano a brilliant display aria as the Sibyl, who Orpheus consults about getting back his lost love. Take on the

## A joyous presentation of a Greek tragedy

calm soul of the philosopher is her advice, ringed around with clusters of high notes calculated to make audiences forget all about Euridyce.

The LPO gave *Orfeo* a rare airing in its current festival. It was hardly the semi-staged performance promised: the chorus lined up at the back of the orchestra and the soloists at the front. But the cast was strictly operatic and showed the value of the LPO's Glyndebourne link. All the principals had sung there recently.

## OPERA

Orfeo ed Euridyce  
QEH

Christiane Oetze was Anne Trulove in *The Rake* two years ago and her Euridyce shows the same ability to convey purity and innocence. Her soprano stays light and delicate and she steered well clear of overdoing things as Euridyce expires. The singing was rightly left to the orchestra, which had an invigorating evening under Frieder Bernius.

Claron McFadden was a lateish replacement as the Sibyl and she glittered away with a fusillade of high

notes as awesome as those Mozart gave the Queen of the Night. The Sibyl comes and goes, but Orpheus himself is on stage for most of the time. Kurt Streit, a highly accomplished Mozartian, had no problems in a part punishing not least because of lengthy recitatives Haydn might have snipped a bit. Streit has the lyric qualities, which proclaim Orpheus the son of a god, and also the bottom register to cope with the low notes strewn throughout the part. Creon, Euridyce's father, is a stereotype, but his three arias at least have variety as William Dazeley was quick to emphasise.

Terry Edwards's London Voices in this heavily choral work have to play everything from cupids to bacchantes. Clean sound, poor diction.

There is a further performance tomorrow.

JOHN HIGGINS

THEATRE: Men behave badly; friends behave sadly

## Desperately seeking two closet husbands

Exposition  
Arts Theatre

TWO COUPLES in Tom Minter's new play are torn apart by husbands who have bedding secrets. Instead of staying at home with Laura, frustrated novelist William looks heavily and stalks public toilets looking for rough trade. It comes along in the form of bleached blond Bobby (Robert Miles), who, when he has finished servicing William, He searches in vain for the wit of Joe Orton and the wisdom of Mike Leigh. He finds neither. The dialogue works fluently on three levels:

That best friends William and James lead clandestine gay lives outside their marriages, and that neither knows the other's secret, is not wildly improbable, but neither is it wildly convincing. It doesn't help that both wives are little more than wallpaper in Minter's melodrama. Laurel Endelman's Laura and Kate Anthony's Joyce dutifully set up situations where their husbands can behave like churls.

The action is spread thinly over a week. The four first gather with the subtlety of buffalo to watch a French film:

we next see them at the theatre, arguing about an issue play during the interval; and then they fall out — at least the men do — at a subsequent dinner party. Behind the squabbles in public and the rifts in private lies the fact that if William and James were honest with themselves, they should have been lovers when they were students, instead of cultivating convenient marriages and crippled lives. This is Minter's "exposition". Revelatory it isn't.

He searches in vain for the wit of Joe Orton and the wisdom of Mike Leigh. He finds neither. The dialogue works fluently on three levels:

the banal, the obscure and the over-emotive. Trevor Sellers's James is boorish to his wife Joyce and, for want of any other emotion, sadistic towards the financially desperate William. You are never quite sure whether Niall Ashdown's surly William reels with self-pity or alcohol poisoning. Predictably the conviction of these performances flakes off as rapidly as the interest in Areta Breeze's woeful production. Andrew Hunt's set outperforms the cast, cleverly converting itself from a cinema into what looks aply like an abattoir.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER



Trevor Sellers plays James the married barrister, Robert Miles is Bobby the rent boy in Tom Minter's *Exposition*

## Repulsive state of play

IS IT the mark of a skilful playwright that within a few moments of the opening, one already views the characters of his play with passionate irritation? If so, Declan Hughes is a playwright of notable craft. His latest for Rough Magic, *Halloween Night* (at Andrews Lane), features a cast of self-obsessed, cowardly, drive-spouting debauchees, each one of such uncommon repulsiveness that the prospect of spending even a couple of hours in their company is distressing.

True, even the playwright appears to have little sympathy for this gang, but its members are so portentously unattractive that it soon becomes almost an impossibility to separate a growing irritation with them from feelings about the play.

The friends have retreated to Ireland's western seaboard for a Halloween reunion. But although someone mentions a loy, this is clearly not J.M. Synge's West. The cottage has

Halloween Night  
Dublin

been the base for a hipster design company and still features all-black decor, full-size mural of Géricault's *Raft of the Medusa* and a big dark, alcohol pit of a refrigerator. Kathy Strachan's sharp set design adds skulls, bones and other seasonal favours, but even without them the message is clear: this is a fair fit for only *fin de siècle* hobgoblins.

An ensemble cast scorch, claw and yawn their way through the night, editorialising on relationships, post-nationalist politics, the significance of the *Raft of the Medusa*, the end of history and even foodies, who, one jaded urbane in a tailcoat suggests, are post-religious mystics with a desire to commune with God by eating him. The specific topics may be new, but the scenario is uncannily familiar. If the party's

recovering heroin addict movie director, Paddy, were to pitch *Halloween Night* as a Ken Russell's *Gothic* meets *The Big Chill*, or more pointedly, *Friends in Hell*.

The pitch might seem to bring things down to a coarse level, but Hughes's writing is never lavish with subtlety. For all his ambitious range of subjects, Hughes's conversations frequently seem to do no more than strug at the timeworn of analyses. Matters are not entirely helped by Lynn Parker's direction, which conjures up plenty of forced debauchery, but little convincing hedonism. Splintering between bouts of melodramatic Romanticism and dandified chit-chat, between blow jobs and apocalyptic preachiness, this party (which transfers to London as part of the Donmar's Four Corners Season in April) turns out to be an arduous nuisance.

LUKE CLANCY

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## Women's last stand in Oxford

Angelica Goodden on the ironies of men moving into St Hilda's

The recent vote by the governing body of St Hilda's College, Oxford, to open its fellowship to men is widely thought to have delivered the coup de grâce to the university's single-sex tradition. But St Hilda's may yet reverse its decision, and for a significant reason. Perhaps the true issue is not the economic factors that prompted the vote for change, but the cause of female academics. What St Hilda's plight shows is how badly the law against sexual discrimination has misfired.

It is widely known that women are chronically under-represented in university life. Even in the United States, the Mecca of academics, barely 14 per cent of full professors are held by women. In Oxford, women have a similarly low proportion of the permanent academic jobs; some faculties, including my own, have no female professors at all. Yet the proportion of female undergraduates at Oxford, like most British universities, is now some 40 per cent and will soon reach parity with men.

Common sense suggests that positive steps should be taken to increase the proportion of women in university teaching; but because St Hilda's elects only women to its tutorial fellowships, it is deemed to be in breach of equal opportunities legislation, and so is punished financially by its parent institution. Because St Hilda's does not actively support the rights of men, the University of Oxford cannot legally support it and contributes nothing to the cost of university lectureships that St Hilda's badly needs.

The irony, of course, is that the pendulum has actually swung decisively in the direction of "men's rights". Three of the other four colleges founded for women a century ago have now embraced the cause of male employment so enthusiastically that men constitute roughly three-quarters of their fellowship, though Somerville, the last to go mixed, has not yet emulated them. But perhaps it is not a question of conscious enthusiasm. Men, so the argument goes, are simply better equipped to teach certain academic subjects (particularly scientific ones), and it is incumbent on any employer to choose the best person for the job.

No doubt there is some truth in this. But given growing concerns about "gender bias" at both senior and junior levels of academic life, a degree of scepticism is in order. Science fellows at St Hilda's are far from unanimous in agreeing that competent women cannot be found for appointments to scientific posts. Does the fact that men hold so many jobs in areas where women's strengths are acknowledged — that is, in arts subjects — mean that men are somehow better than women at making a case for themselves? Do men impress interviewing panels as more proficient, dynamic and capable than women? It is controversially the case that most men, not having children to bear, have more time to devote to other kinds of produc-

tion, with consequential benefits to their curriculum vitae. Aside from this, men applying for university jobs may simply assert an unconscious or semi-conscious authority that their historically disadvantaged female peers are without. The likelihood of bias in those who are assessing their relative professional strengths may seem remote, but it still deserves investigation.

The need is all the more pressing in the light of recent research at Cambridge which, while suggesting that female undergraduates find female supervisors less confrontational and intimidating than male ones, also indicated that the "masculine" qualities of aggressiveness, fearlessness, decisiveness and panache earn examination candidates more marks than the "feminine" qualities of patience and sensitivity. In other words, bravado (often disguising shallowness and lack of preparation) leads to a better degree than piousness. The figures showing that men are awarded more firsts than women may simply mean that men, rather than being inherently more intelligent than women, have better learnt how to sell themselves.

Perhaps, then, female achievement — or lack of it — at senior levels of university life parallels female achievement (or the lack of it) at the junior level, with the self-presentation skills more common in men than women being decisive in both. This possibility should cause grave concern to all who take education seriously.

The unique identity of an institution such as St Hilda's is neither quaint nor irrelevant. As long as doubts remain about the equity of judgments of academic performance and potential, the importance of the female view must be tirelessly proclaimed. As long as the suspicion of subconscious discrimination on sexual grounds persists, the interests of those who may be so discriminated against must be supported.

Financial pressures on universities are frightening, and perhaps frightening women more than men. The fear of letting heart rule head (traditionally seen as a female weakness) has led a number of women at St Hilda's to vote for change. But wishing to retain our distinctive character is a pragmatic impulse, not a product of emotional yearning. A college founded in the name of disadvantage, and which has been poverty-stricken since its foundation, cannot easily ride the financial storm which has long been brewing as a consequence of equal opportunities legislation. The old, strong desire to preserve the distinctiveness of an all-female institution should not hastily give way to market forces. Many beyond the college deprecate the stampee towards coeducation, declaring that variety is what the university needs. But none has ever attempted to translate conviction into action.

The author is a fellow of St Hilda's College.

The time for a change argument is boosting the Scottish Nationalists, but their hopes are unrealistic

## Can Scotland go it alone into Europe?

support the Labour local government in big cities. John Smith was their ideal leader, coming from the right wing of old Labour. Tony Blair is resented by many Scottish Labour supporters as an Englishman with a fancy accent who has hijacked their party. The qualities that make Tony Blair popular in England tend to tell against him in Scotland.

If "time for a change" is working for anyone in Scotland, it is working for the SNP. It is picking up alienated Labour votes, but at the cost of appearing as a party to the left of Labour. Not so long ago, Labour activists sneered at the SNP as "tartan Tories", and the SNP did indeed have right-wing as well as left-wing supporters. Now its right-wing support is drying up. Jacob has already been canvassing the more Conservative sections of Glenrothes, the new town which forms the main part of the constituency. Of the few who have raised the SNP question, three have said they would vote SNP, but three have said that they voted SNP at the last election but are not going to do so again. That does not have the makings of an SNP landslide in Fife.

There are not many Liberal Democrats in Central Fife, though they have Menzies Campbell next door in Fife North East, a Liberal-Conservative marginal. Menzies Campbell is a much respected figure in the old Scottish liberal tradition; I suspect that this tradition, which I admire as much in decline as the old Scottish

Tory tradition of Alec Douglas-Home. Scotland is not going back to the lairds.

The Scottish Conservatives are suffering from the general unpopularity of the Government, but even that looks different north of the border. Scottish Tories do not talk much about John Major; the focus of their loyalty is much more likely to be Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State. He is a genuinely popular figure in Scotland, respected even by people opposed to his politics. Labour

Union is seen as a generous provider of regional funds, and as a potential ally for Scottish nationalism, whereas English nationalism sees Europe as a threat to national independence. Euroscepticism has little resonance in Scotland. I found that the issues which might arise from the SNP's policy of an independent Scotland inside the European Union were new to most of my audience. I suspect that many Scots see the appeal of the policy but have not yet seen its difficulties.

There are two European objections to admitting a separate Scotland. The first is funding. Ireland has been a very large beneficiary from EU funds, most of which are provided by Germany and some by the United Kingdom. Scotland would not get the same benefits as Ireland. After the experience of funding East Germany, and with the need to fund the East European candidates for entry to the EU, Germany will not take on an increased commitment to pay for Scotland. The German economy is in difficulties, with high unemployment. The message that would be given to an applicant Scotland by the EU is "the gravy train has been cancelled until further notice".

Scotland might not be admitted at all. All the larger European countries have reason to fear the fragmentation of Europe. Scotland joined the United Kingdom by the Act of Union in 1706; Bavaria joined the German Empire only in 1871. Catalonia has as strong

claim to separate membership of the EU as Scotland; so perhaps has Lombardy; so have the Basques, the Flemings and/or the Walloons. To admit a separate Scotland to the EU would threaten the disintegration of Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. That is not something the EU will be keen to facilitate.

The constitutional ferment in Scotland is based on real emotions and is going to have an impact on the whole United Kingdom. The Unionists in Scotland naturally have a much better understanding of the reality of Scottish national feeling than anyone in London. They recognise the strength of Scottish national patriotism, which they share. What they fear is that a Scottish parliament, inevitably dominated by the Labour vote in Strathclyde, would quarrel with a future Westminster Parliament of a different party, as such a Scottish parliament might have quarrelled with Margaret Thatcher's administration. They fear that such a quarrel would break up the United Kingdom. They want to find a better way forward.

One interesting new element has been injected into this debate: Andrew Neil has become editorial director of *The Scotsman*, which in two or three months has been changed almost out of recognition. It is now very reminiscent of the aggressive, anti-establishment but open-market *Sunday Times* of the 1980s. The *Scotsman's* line on the sleaze allegations has been as tough as anyone's. Indeed, Scottish Tories much resent it. Yet Andrew Neil is not a little Scotland man, but a radical anti-establishment Scottish Thatcherite like Michael Forsyth himself. He believes in meeting global competition. The Adam Smith case for an open-market Scotland does not now lack champions. When the campaign starts, I think Jacob is going to have some fascinating issues to discuss.

William Rees-Mogg

knows that he is the Tory it has to beat. I heard one comment, not from a Conservative, that he has been "by light years the best Secretary of State of modern times". He is also seen by Scots as a real Scot, not an Englishman in a kilt. I would not give anyone else much chance of holding his ultra-marginal seat of Stirling, but he might just do it. If he does, he could come back to Westminster as the one member of the Cabinet with a really successful election campaign.

Europe is a good deal more popular in Scotland than in England. For the Scottish voter, the European

## Time to show some boldness

Peter Riddell says Labour's election-winning strategy is short on frankness

Tony Blair should start taking some risks. He often says privately, "You don't think I have been so radical with the Labour Party only to be cautious in government". But that is the impression that Labour's safety-first campaign is giving. The party's leaders are so obsessed with avoiding the mistakes of the past — understandably after four successive defeats — that they have adopted a minimalist strategy: attack the Tories on the "enough is enough" theme and make no controversial promises. That approach looks like working on May 1, but it will not prepare voters for what is needed in government.

Mr Blair's advisers argue that there is an election to be won, and that the time for risks and frankness is afterwards. Anyway, Labour has been more responsible than past Oppositions, promising only what it can deliver. Mr Blair is, admittedly, in a very different position from Harold Wilson after the February 1974 election, when he was faced with a ragbag of expensive promises made to trade union and party activists, which he spent his final two years as Prime Minister evading. Mr Blair would have no such trouble on entering Downing Street.

But avoiding excess commitments is not enough. Gordon Brown has been right to insist upon tight spending controls, both to reassure the markets and to lower expectations. But he is being disingenuous in claiming merely that there is nothing in Labour's plans that would raise taxes, aside from the windfall levy on the utilities and the other, mainly gimmicky, "early" pledges. He drew a distinction yesterday, saying privatised utilities that



are regulated and licensed by statute would be "eligible" for such a levy, but only those that have earned excess profits will be "liable". This would limit the main impact to the regional electricity and water companies. Otherwise, by proposing an audit of the "books", Mr Brown is preparing the way for a "shock, horror" revelation when, as the incoming Chancellor, he can claim the figures are worse than he expected, and blame the Tories for any need to raise taxes.

But Mr Brown already knows that the projections in the Treasury's Red Book are flawed, even though he has pledged to maintain spending plans for the next two years. These spending totals, and the recent growth rate of health spending, can be maintained only by cuts in programmes such as social security

(which Labour has opposed), and/or by higher taxes. The over-optimism may be the Tories' fault, but the constraint is already clear. That is why Mr Brown is wrong to raise hopes about the early introduction of a 10 per cent starting rate of income tax. If this is to have any real impact, it will involve higher taxes for the better-off.

Mr Blair was right yesterday to emphasise in the *New York Times* the importance of trust on tax. But he may live to regret the firmness of his remark that "if, after five years, I break my promises on tax, on not raising basic and top rates of income tax, on trade unions and these essential things I have said we will do, we are gone. We are probably

finished for ever". Labour is in danger of being too clever by half, since the basic and higher rates are symbolic and are not the same as the overall tax burden. Even after Mr Brown's promise yesterday, not to increase national insurance contributions, there are many other ways to raise taxes. Many voters will not understand the distinction if personal taxes rise in other ways, and Labour would be accused of betraying the spirit, if not the letter, of Mr Blair's pledge.

For all their caution about making new promises, Mr Blair and Mr Brown have so far failed to prepare the ground for the necessary and difficult decisions on paying for existing programmes, with the important exception of replacing student grants by loans. Avoiding pledges to reverse Tory changes is not

enough. Any new government will have to explore new ways of financing public services, such as an earmarked health tax, as well as further privatisation.

Labour's risk-averse strategy has drawn heavily on the lessons of the Clinton campaigns in 1992 and 1996, and is similarly driven by polling and market research. Mr Blair's advisers are worried by evidence of a sceptical mood among voters, and have been keen to minimise the distance between the main parties when it comes to Europe, and especially a single currency. This was reflected in the markedly sceptical, at times almost nationalist, language in Mr Blair's article in *The Sun* last Monday, which was followed by that paper's endorsement of Labour the next day.

Even though Mr Blair is dubious about the merits of monetary union now, his vision of Britain's role in Europe is totally different from the populist scepticism of *The Sun*. Labour advisers are being too cynical for their long-term good. They say "wait until after the election and you will see our true pro-European colours". I agree. Mr Blair will be keen to demonstrate that he wants, and is able, to pursue a more positive approach than John Major could. But a willingness to compromise at the Amsterdam summit in June will bring charges of betrayal from some of his fair-weather supporters in the press.

Mr Blair has a clear idea of his priorities on education, welfare reform, relations with business and Europe, and constitutional reform. He knows what he wants Britain to be like in five years' time. But he has not spelt out what this will involve, the means as well as the ends. The ruthless and so far successful campaigning strategy risks being all things to all people. Labour will no doubt claim that it is winning a big majority, it will have a mandate for its programme. But it will not if it fails now to address the choices facing Britain. Mr Blair should show some of the same boldness as a prospective Prime Minister that he has displayed as Labour leader.

## And be damned

WRITERS who feel badly treated by their publishers have a new and unlikely hero in Darius Guppy. Last week, via the High Court, he instituted proceedings against his publisher, Blake Publishing, in order to recover the third and final payment for his autobiography, *Roll the Dice*.

Before taking on this new role as publishing's Wat Tyler, Citizen

Guppy was best known for his Pink Pantherish attempt to defraud Lloyd's of London with a faked jewel theft. Bungling on the job landed him a spell in chokley, which was awkward for one who had served as best man to the present Earl Spencer.

Blake Publishing, whose stable includes Ronnie Kray, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith and the Duchess of York's psychic friend Madame Vasso, paid Guppy a hefty advance for his book. When the final cheque was due, however, Guppy was told several times that it was "in the post".

After a couple of months, he grew fed up and on March 6, after Blake failed to put in a defence, he obtained a judgment ordering it to cough up or give a good reason for not doing so, and on March 17 he applied to have its assets seized. All rather embarrassing for Blake, which is said to want to go upmarket.

All rights and royalties from the book and an expected film should now revert to Guppy, who is revelling in the fight. "Now he has the law working for him rather than against him," says one close friend, "there's no stopping him."



Guppy: upper hand

Good old Peter Mandelson, the caring new Labour campaign director. When the election was called, he rallied the 100 or so youths who run the Labour war-room in Millbank Tower and told them they should follow his lead by taking plenty of vitamins and giving up alcohol for the duration. Over at Tory Central Office, they are without such pastoral care. After 10pm, out comes the whisky — and recriminations soon follow.

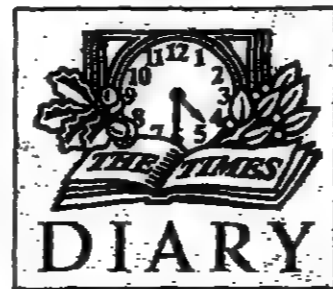
### Yanked out

HORSEY English accents and Jeremy Street shirts were greatly in evidence at the opening of the International Asian Art Fair in New York on Friday night.

Of the 50 exhibitors, 20 are from London, including the one-time Kensington Palace habitué Oliver Hoare, the St James's gong-peddlers Spink & Sons, Bond Street's John Eskenazi and Mount Street's Michael Gillingham, whose left eyebrow quivered in discreet ecstasy at the dollar sales figures.

At the bar it was British G & T's all round, with one son of Albion loudly calling out: "None of that ice in mine, thank you, Luigi." Could this really be Manhattan?

All that was missing was the Duchess of York, who was expected



to arrive with the Hong Kong billionaire David Tang. Her place was capably filled by a svelte Ghislaine Maxwell. The Old Marlborough ex-pat manfully resisted the lentil curry canapés, explaining: "Me skirt will burst if I do."

### Scotch broth

NOT before time, Scottish Opera, one of the most troubled opera companies in the world, has chosen a martinet as its new general director. Ruth Mackenzie, 40, has earned a formidable reputation as executive director of Nottingham Playhouse for the past seven years. She will take up her Scottish posting in September. "I am thrilled to be joining the company at so exciting a time," she says.

In recent years, Scottish Opera

has been getting through staff as quickly as Liberate went through sequins. Last year it even considered doing away with its orchestra — an essential, one would have thought, for an opera company.

Tired of Tupperware, chafed by charity work, the ladies who lunch have a new excuse to run up their platinum card bills. In Langan's Brasserie, Mayfair, the other day a table of women with fixed hair and fixed lips sat surrounded by the rubble of a champagne lunch. One of them was wearing a veil. On inquiry it turned out they were celebrating the fact that their veiled friend had decided not to get married. They called this event an unwedding party.

### Ring cycle

ON the day of the Tories' victory in the 1992 general election, Michael Portillo, then Minister for Local Government, pulled out his mobile telephone in an Italian restaurant and rang his Labour Shadow David Blunkett to gloat.

This time round, Blunkett is hoping for revenge. He bumped into Portillo recently in the Commons and demanded his mobile number. Portillo promised to send it round the next day, blithely brushing aside the possibility that this time round it will be him eating the humble pie and Blunkett the ravioli.

### As I say...

BACK IN January, PHS predicted that it would not be long before Honor Fraser, the Scottish model, was signed up as the face of the French fashion house, Givenchy. Now, according to those close to her, it's a deal.

Miss Fraser, sister of Lord Lovat, has been close to Alexander Mc-



Honored in France

Queen, chief designer at the French fashion house, ever since he was cutting frocks on his kitchen table. Her cousin, Stella Tennant, will doubtless be passing on advice, having ousted Claudia Schiffer to become the face of Chanel last year. The money Miss Fraser is likely to make from the contract should ensure that she need never concern herself with the cost of a laddered tight again.

P.H.S



## HARD LABOUR

Blair has to stick to tough free-market employment policies

Britain is booming, proclaims the latest Tory election poster. Unemployment has fallen to just 6.2 per cent, the Office for National Statistics announced on Wednesday. Why, then, are jobs still cited as the third most important problem facing Britain, after health and education? And why is Labour seen as having better policies on unemployment by a majority of three to one?

An informed debate on employment issues ought to play a central role in the election campaign. And a proper understanding of these issues will be even more important after the voting is over, since a Labour government would be under intense pressure from its supporters to revert to a traditionalist strategy on job creation, workplace conditions and union rights. The critical arguments about employment, discussed in today's Election Guide on page 6, can be boiled down to two points.

While Britain's job market has performed well by European standards in the three years of economic recovery since the 1991-92 recession, the long-term employment record in the 18 years of Tory government gives no cause for self-satisfaction. Unemployment today is still higher than it was when Margaret Thatcher took office. This one fact may alone be sufficient to explain the continuing public anxiety about jobs, even without considering the less secure nature of today's employment, the widespread hardship caused by compulsory early retirements and the big transfer of jobs in favour of women and part-timers at the expense of full-time men. Another statistical cause for concern is that the total rate of employment growth in Britain since 1979 has not been significantly higher, despite all the new-found flexibility and deregulation, than in the hidebound economies of France, Italy and probably Germany (where figures have been distorted by reunification in 1990).

But against all these disappointments must be set one overwhelming and unquestionable achievement of the Tory per-

iod: the taming of the trade unions and the creation of a completely new culture of economic realism, productivity, and competitiveness in British industrial relations. It is easy to forget that the question of whether the country should be governed by Parliament or by trade unions dominated British politics not only in the 1979 election, but also in the elections of 1974, 1970 and 1966. During both of the last two Labour Governments, ministers found it literally impossible to imagine how they could run the economy and avoid galloping inflation without imposing incomes policies and offering the unions decisive political power.

By breaking the monopoly power of the trade unions, by deregulating the labour market, and by focusing economic policy on incentives, productivity and profits, rather than political intervention, archaic tradition and coercive rights, the Tories put in place the foundations for an economic renaissance in Britain. If the benefits of these reforms have not yet been more impressively manifested, the explanation lies partly in the Tories' own macroeconomic mismanagement, but also in the simple fact that supply side reforms inevitably take many years to produce results. A newly elected Labour government could conclude that the Tories' employment reforms were not, after all, what the country needed and drift back to the old collectivist approach. This would be nothing short of a tragedy for Britain.

Tony Blair seems aware of the disastrous consequences of returning even part way to his party's old policies on employment. But a Labour government, by its very nature, would contain loud and powerful voices for turning back the clock. And many of Mr Blair's policies — on the social chapter, on minimum wages and on union recognition — suggest that he may be ready to appease the traditionalists. Nothing will be more important for Mr Blair than to resist old Labour's siren calls for re-regulating the workplace — and nothing will be harder.

## RUSSIA'S WOUNDED PRIDE

The West must show that Helsinki was not another Versailles

President Yeltsin surprised everyone at Helsinki last week with his physical vigour and political agility. Fit, alert and jovial, he spent long hours negotiating with President Clinton and decided to make the best of a weak hand. Knowing that he could not stop the eastward expansion of Nato, he used the occasion to write from Mr Clinton what concessions he could. He was promised virtually full membership of the renamed "Summit of the Eight", he was offered a rapid beginning to Start 3 negotiations on nuclear reductions and he was given assurances of backing for Russian membership of the World Trade Organisation and the Paris Club of export credit agencies.

On the crucial issue of Nato expansion, however, he achieved almost nothing. Mr Clinton promised that no nuclear weapons or military infrastructure would be deployed on the territory of the three proposed new members; and he promised a document in the next few weeks detailing Russia's role in co-ordinating policy with Nato. Both had long been assumed to be the minimum necessary to allow expansion to go ahead at all. Mr Yeltsin won no new assurances that former Soviet republics would be kept out of Nato and no guarantee that the proposed Nato-Russia Council would be legally binding. All he obtained was an agreement to disagree and soothing words about Nato's peaceful intentions.

To Mr Yeltsin's critics, his performance was lamentable. Accusations of capitulation echoed around Moscow even before he arrived home. The Communists said out loud what everyone in Russia, and the West, recognises: Russia is being admitted "no further than Nato's cloakroom". More ominously, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, compared the summit out-

come to the treaty of Versailles. The parallels may not be exact. But if Russians are provoked by nationalist demagogues into believing that their country has been "stabbed in the back," long-term hopes for East-West stability can only suffer.

For the moment, Mr Yeltsin can probably ride out the storm. His remarkable physical recovery gives him an unexpected political initiative. In any case, the Nato setback may soon be overshadowed by a challenge far more immediate to Russian voters: the threat of a nationwide strike on Thursday by millions of workers unpaid for months. The strike could be a catalyst for other pent-up grievances, and violence is likely. The Government is particularly worried about 17 regions where the economic situation is especially bad and where opposition leaders are encouraging the strike.

Mr Yeltsin may try to intervene personally to mitigate the damage to his popularity inflicted in Helsinki. He must find a way to break the vicious circle of uncollected taxes and unpaid salaries and pensions. Unless the real grievances of millions of desperate workers can be assuaged, further reform will be thwarted. Too many Russians already associate privatisation with private plunder, capitalism with criminality.

Nato comes well down the list of the Russians' concerns, behind crime, unemployment and ethnic conflict. But the West should not gloat about using this window of opportunity to enlarge Nato while Russia is weak. Russians have long memories, a strong sense of their country's history and dangerous resentments. Mr Clinton may believe he won all he wanted in Helsinki. He must now redouble his efforts to prevent the Russians believing they lost too much.

## CLASS DISTINCTIONS

Two worlds of student life revealed by a new survey

Britain's universities boast undergraduates who are more than a degree apart. A new survey, which we report today, reveals an aristocracy alongside an impoverished rump. While the smart set heads for Latin America for the duration of the long vacation, the poor relations can look forward to a summer spent stacking shelves at the local supermarket. While Katherine has the fast car, personal computer and mobile phone, poor Darren survives on baked beans all term with an adverse effect on his social life. The enormous expansion of higher education has brought not a new egalitarianism but a fresh elitism, based on high technology possession.

This study rings true to those who have experience of modern campus life. There is barely room for the poor professor's ancient Mini Metro in car parks heaving with the Aston Martins owned by those they teach. Students read essays from their laptops. Lectures are constantly interrupted by the annoying chimes of mobile phones. Most students, of course, have none of these trinkets. But this only adds to the brazenness of those who do and who look forward with confidence to a starting salary comfortably in excess of their tutors'.

Was it not ever thus? The pre-war Oxford of *Brideshead Revisited* had far deeper and starker social divisions. Then the young

gentlemen would spend an easy life based around their dining societies, rarely even bothering to sit their final exams. Meanwhile, the grammar school boys would cluster in the libraries, seeking them out as much for warmth as wisdom.

At least today it is not impossible for the average student to improve his or her lot. Companies are increasingly keen to employ them during the vacation, not least as a means of ensuring future recruitment. The slow erosion of the student grant has persuaded most that such work is not beneath them. Most undergraduates seem to survive despite skirmishes with the bank manager.

Other aspects of the survey debunk long-established student myths. Lager, not LSD, remains the preferred external stimulant. Tastes in radio and television look distinctly conventional. And more students choose to read this newspaper than any other. Whatever expensive gadgets the students may or may not own, a decent degree and well-paid job at the end are common objectives. Some still reflect wistfully on the revolutionary spirit of the 1960s, but demonstrations now seem inefficient and low-tech compared with a protest on the Internet. The true icon to the 1990s university generation seems to be Bill Gates, not Che Guevara.

## Publication in the public interest

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

Sir, Some of the arguments raised by *The Guardian's* publication of evidence to Sir Gordon Downey (reports, March 21 and 22) were tested in the High Court in a 1994 case. On that occasion the court attached overriding importance to the need to allow electors to debate an issue of public interest before rather than after an election.

Liverpool City Council had lost several million pounds after awarding a cable-laying contract to its own direct services organisation, despite warnings that it was ill-equipped for the task. The council commissioned accountants KPMG Peat Marwick to investigate the *KPMG Echo* learnt of the findings of KPMG's draft report, but was prevented from publishing them by an ex-parte injunction obtained by the firm, which the paper then challenged.

KPMG argued that it would be damaging to the individuals named in the report, and to its own professional interests, to allow anything other than the final report to be publicly debated. The newspaper pointed out that if the injunction stood the public would be denied the information until after the local elections, then some four weeks away.

Mr Justice Pill lifted the injunction, so that the findings could be "the subject of debate before the election". He commented:

There is a substantial sum of money involved, and the City Council elections are imminent. The pace at which the investigation has been conducted is not rapid.

... matters have not proceeded quickly. No good reason has been shown to me why the present stage should not have been reached some time ago. In my judgment the timescale is important in performing the balancing exercise, having regard to the imminence of the City Council elections.

... in my judgment, the public interest in publication ... outweighs the interests which the Liverpool City Council has in restricting publication. It further outweighs the public and private interests which the plaintiffs have and it outweighs those interests in combination.

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE FRANKEL,  
Director,  
The Campaign for Freedom of Information,  
Suite 102, 16 Baldwin Gardens, ECI,  
March 22.

## Assisted places

From the Headmistress of The Mount School, York

Sir, Your leader of March 18, "A Girl's Best Chance", is very timely. Girls' public schools have indeed been pioneers in equal opportunities and thinking about the contribution women can make to society. Here, for instance, at The Mount Quaker School in the 1870s, girls were inspired to study astronomy by the radical socialist, Edward Carpenter, and took classes in geology. A debate on Home Rule electrified the school in 1888.

May I also extend the debate on the Assisted Places Scheme to embrace the role of Quaker schools, and others of like mind, which were founded in pursuance of "values" — those intangibles so warmly espoused by political parties.

These schools inculcate not just hard work and high endeavour but service, personal responsibility and initiative, an international outlook and respect for others. They are fee-paying because they could not otherwise exist — there is no state support available; but, thanks to bursaries and assisted places, their pupil body includes those with plenty of this world's goods and those with scarcely any. The loss of assisted places would merely restrict the intake, thus depriving a considerable body of children from experiencing the values of a Quaker school.

In many other areas of life we see bridges being built between the Labour Party and private enterprise: it is said for those of us in education to see parallel bridges in our sector threatened with removal. It is difficult to un-

## Tories' hopes and Labour's record

From Miss Elizabeth J. Smith

Sir, It was heartening to read Magnus Linklater's considered piece ("How Scots Tories could surprise us", March 20) in the run-up to the election. He has maintained a commendable objectivity in his observations about the political parties in Scotland. It makes a pleasant change from the untrammelled bias from the pens of too many of his colleagues north of the border.

No one doubts that the Scottish Conservatives face a challenge, but neither should there be any doubt that they are in good heart, nor that their message is sinking in.

I for one would be happy to join Mr Linklater's betting friend in predicting that the Tories in Scotland just might surprise us all.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH J. SMITH  
(Prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Edinburgh South),  
13 Mentone Gardens, Edinburgh 9,  
March 21.

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, In his article (March 14) Matthew Parris states that "The Tories are heading for defeat". He goes on to argue that in such a case John Major should resist the pressure to resign immediately.

His article, however, is based on the presumption that it will only be the Parliamentary Conservative Party which will elect a new leader. Might I suggest that in the event of a defeat the whole of the Conservative Party would wish to participate in the election.

We know from your report (March 15) that "The Conservative Party is to press ahead with plans to change the rules for choosing its leader that would give party activists a vote for the first time". Any attempt to hold a leadership election on the old basis before the "grassroots" members of the party had decided to what extent they wished to be involved would, I feel sure, create strong and bitter resentment.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN E. STRAFFORD  
(Chairman, Campaign for Conservative Party Democracy),  
Perama, Fulmer Road,  
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,  
March 17.

derstand the logic of continued support for grant-maintained schools on one hand and denial of assisted-place funding on the other.

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA J. WINDLE,  
Headmistress,  
The Mount School,  
Dalton Terrace, York,  
March 18.

From the President of the Girls' Schools Association

Sir, The advantages to girls of single-sex education are well attested, and it would be a grave pity if the abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme were to deny that option to girls from low-income families.

However, concern is now surfacing about the underachievement of boys. The relentless spread of coeducation may have contributed to this by polarising the sexes, suggesting to boys that academic achievement is "girly" and encouraging them in laddishness, to differentiate themselves as much as possible from their female classmates.

So girls' schools are possibly good for boys as well as girls.

Yours faithfully,  
JACQUELINE LANG,  
President,  
Girls' Schools Association,  
130 Regent Road, Leicester,  
March 19.

From the Headmaster of Nottingham High School

Sir, At a conference in London this week on the future of independent education (report, March 18) Mrs Margaret Hodge, shadow education spokeswoman, maintained that as-

## Foreign parts

From Mr Nicholas Bridge

Sir, In his travel feature on Russia ("You need an Olga to clear your path", Weekend, March 15) Alexander Chancellor managed to convey many of the aspects of "the Englishman abroad" which foreigners find so entertaining.

To take just one example, could I offer the radical suggestion that the reason people did not speak to him in English was because they were in fact Russian? I cannot help but recall how useful one or two words of Russian

## German map auction

From Mr Dan Clifton

Sir, Your report (March 20) the planned auction of German maps of Great Britain, dating from the Second World War, which were designed for use in an invasion.

Such original documents are obviously of great interest to members of the public and historians alike. What is interesting, however, is that unlike these documents recovered by a British soldier in Germany, many of our own official records concerning Germany's wartime activities in Britain

From Mr B. Stansfield

Sir, Linda Moule (letter, March 21) is right to invoke elderly Conservatives to remind first-time voters of the reality of life under a Labour government.

Oh for a return to those heady days of affordable prescription charges, dental care, eye tests, residential care for the elderly, secure caring help for the mentally ill, only half a million unemployed, pre-Beeching railway services in rural areas, substantially lower crime figures, etc. etc.

Yours faithfully,  
B. STANSFIELD,  
7 Borthwick Park, Orton,  
Wistow, Peterborough, Cambridge,  
March 21.

From Dr Kenneth E. C. Macaulay

Sir, Perhaps those good people who follow the advice of your correspondent Mrs Moule could also remind us of the meaning of the term "the NHS safe in our hands" when Mrs Major (report, March 20) is seen to give an award to a child who sold her toys to pay for her grandfather's cancer treatment.

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH MACAULAY,  
3 Glamis Gardens,  
Dalgety Bay, Fife,  
March 21.

From Miss J. V. Morton

Sir, My father had a story of the canvasser in a 1930s general election being told bluntly by the householder: "I'm going to vote for Mr Baldwin. He promises nothing and he keeps his word."

Yours faithfully,  
JANE MORTON,  
May's House,  
Fritwell, Bicester, Oxfordshire,  
March 21.

From Mr Peter Grafton

Sir, The Hale-Bopp comet, like some of its historic predecessors, may presage some unexpected catastrophe. Perhaps Tony Blair should consult his astrologer as to whether he is more likely, come election day, to be hailed or bopped!

Yours faithfully,  
PETER GRAFTON,  
57 Padbrook,  
Limpfield, Oxford, Surrey,  
March 21.

## Tensions that built to Albania's crisis

From the Archbishop of Wales and others

Sir, Much recent reporting of the Albanian crisis has suggested that the collapse of the fraudulent pyramid savings schemes is the main cause of resentment against President Sali Berisha. The problems of Albania go much deeper than that.

In 1995 we were members of a delegation to Albania sponsored by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. During that visit we met church leaders and aid workers to hear their concerns and in a personal meeting with the President we brought them to his attention.

They included reports of human rights abuses, corruption among members of the Democratic Party, arbitrary decision-making by officials for personal gain, the lack of a legislative framework for the equal treatment of all Christians and Muslims, and concerns in advance of the 1996 Albanian elections (which we now know to be justified).

Subsequently, we have been concerned by reports of Albanians being harassed and beaten up by members of the Shik (the Albanian secret police who replaced the former communist Sigurimi), which indicate a growing intolerance by President Berisha of plural political activity in the country.

We are anxious, therefore, that the international community support the cause of democratic and constitutional government in Albania and we hope they will back that support with economic aid and inward investment to provide Albanians with real employment prospects and the constitutional freedoms we take for granted.

If not, internal tensions will continue and Albanians will continue to become economic migrants in Greece, Italy and Germany or refugees on rusting hulks in the Adriatic. The danger to the entire Balkan region and the cost to the international community will then be incalculable.

Yours sincerely,  
\*ALWYN CAMBRENSIS,  
BRYAN OWEN  
(CCBI Balkans Working Group),  
G. R. SPARKES  
(Baptist Union of Great Britain),  
Bishop's House,  
St Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 OTW,  
March 21.

From Sir John Stokes

Sir, I write in support of Lord Bethell's letter (March 17) about Berisha. In 1992 I was asked by the Council of Europe to lead a delegation to oversee the elections in Albania. We met Mr Berisha and formed a good opinion of him and we also went all over the country and were satisfied that the elections were both free and fair.

Recently Mr Berisha may have been unwise and unlucky, but he is not a bad man and I do not believe he should be castigated for all the chaos that now exists in Albania.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STOKES,  
4 The Barbours,  
Stratton Audley,  
Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire,  
March 18.

## Doctor off duty

From Mrs Mary Stones

Sir, Your report (March 20) a campaign to discourage patients being in need of their GP over Easter.

No one in Stradbroke dared call Dr Drawner at weekends, and this was over 30 years ago. His successor was very surprised how peaceful it had been on his first duty Bank Holiday in the village.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY STONES,  
The Cottage Farm,  
Stradbroke, nr Eye, Suffolk,  
March 20.

## You've been warned

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, My local newspaper warns me that the Council for the Protection of Rural England is recommending that all those people who love the countryside should get out and enjoy its peace and tranquillity. To that end it is naming June 7 and 8 a National Picnic Weekend.

As my house is surrounded by fields and grassland in this remote part of the Hampshire/Wiltshire border, I fear June 9 cannot come soon enough.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT VINCENT,  
Dilly House, Wildern,  
Andover, Hampshire,  
March 20.

## Home and away

From Mr Richard Lloyd

Sir, Further grounds for concern about standards of education are highlighted by your report (Sport, March 18) on the schools seven-a-sides at Rosslyn Park.

The team from Cullford School was depleted when some of its players, on a journey from Suffolk to southwest London, managed to get lost in Hampshire. I trust the geography master will take immediate action, as and when they find their way back.

Yours faithfully,  
DAN CLIFTON,  
46 Handforth Road, SW9,  
March 20.

remain secret, more than 50 years later.

On the advice of the Public Record Office I recently applied to the Courts Service, an agency of the Lord Chancellor's Department, for the release of documents relating to the treatment and detention of wartime spies. Yet remarkably, despite the 30-year rule and the open government initiative, I was told the papers must remain secret. I find this hard to credit.

Yours sincerely,  
DAN CLIFTON,  
46 Handforth Road, SW9,  
March 20.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.



## OBITUARIES

## SIR JOHN FIGGESS

Sir John Figgess, KBE, CMG, Commissioner General for Britain, World Exposition, Osaka, 1968-70, and a director of Christie, Manson and Woods, 1973-82, died on March 20 aged 87. He was born on November 15, 1909.

A leading British authority on Japan, John Figgess and his work were involved with that country for nearly seventy years. He did secret work in Japan at the time of its invasion of China and during the build-up to the Second World War. He was involved with military intelligence in India and the postwar interrogations of Japanese war criminals. He had diplomatic service in Tokyo, culminating as Britain's alternate ambassador at the 1970 Osaka World Exposition.

Finally, he had another career as an art expert, spearheading Christie's penetration of the rich Japanese market. This owed much not only to his art expertise, but to his flawless Japanese.

Through all his contacts in Japan — government, business and members of the Imperial House — Figgess could claim his part in helping Japan to re-emerge as a peaceful ally. Never an apologist for Japan, he had a keen insight into what for many is still the baffling national character.

John George Figgess was born into a family of Ulster Protestants from Enniskillen. His father, an army officer, was killed in the First World War, and his mother struggled to send him to Whitgift Middle School, Croydon.

Not being able to afford university fees, Figgess, wanting to learn Chinese, was recruited by British Intelligence and sent instead in 1933 to learn Japanese with a Tokyo family. His cover was "business". It was a turbulent time. Japan was annexing Manchuria and defying international bodies. Although Figgess, with his great height and strong nose, was to Japanese eyes the archetypal "Western devil", he was well placed to observe and warn about the threat of Japanese expansionism.

The imminence of war in Europe

brought him home. He was commissioned in the Army Intelligence Corps, and attended staff college. After Pearl Harbor and Japan's occupation of most of South-East Asia, he was posted to thwart the Japanese threat to India. Based at Indian Army HQ at Delhi and then with Mountbatten's SE Asia Command, his unit deciphered intercepts of Japanese communications.

Figgess was particularly engrossed with the Victory for India Movement, whose leader Subhas Chandra Bose commanded the equivalent of two divisions in Burma on Japan's side. Although Bose's forces rarely got into action against the British, Figgess reported that his supporters believed he would return from Japan as a liberator. Instead he died in a Japanese air crash in Formosa, but the affair typically gave Figgess an earlier appreciation than most that the Raj could not continue after the war.

After 1945 he continued his Army Intelligence career. He served for a year in the UK Liaison Mission to the American supreme, General Douglas MacArthur, whose task was both to occupy and to democratise the defeated enemy. Figgess had specific tasks such as interrogating Japanese commanders prior to their trial by the International Military Tribunal. But his greater purpose, as assistant military attaché until 1953, was to further Britain's interest, alongside the Americans, with the generation of men and women who were to rehabilitate Japan. Japan's first post-war Prime Minister, Shigeru Yoshida, and his family were and remained prominent among Figgess's friends.

Although he later came to question the need for the atomic bombing of Japan, Figgess believed the American occupation succeeded as one of the most benevolent and enlightened transformations of any society. But, as close observer of Chairman Mao's rise to power and the outbreak of war in Korea in 1950, he was less enchanted by MacArthur's actions, and the development of American policies. Amid loose talk of using atomic weapons to stem Communist advances, Figgess helped the Allies



Government to exercise restraint on Washington.

After Korea, as a staff officer at the War Office's MI Directorate, Figgess was mainly preoccupied with the French collapse in Indo-China, and the subsequent partition of Vietnam. But in 1950, promoted to full colonel, he was posted back to Japan as military attaché, a job in which he witnessed the birth of Japan's new Self Defence Forces, before in 1961 transferring, under Foreign Office aegis, to become information counsel- lor at the British Embassy.

For the next nine years, Figgess was the interpreter to Tory and Labour movements alike of the emergent

Japan. From 1968 to 1970 he was Britain's effective ambassador at the Osaka World Exposition. Such was his entertaining that the funds ran out. But with brilliant untidy hands he saw the solution in the 60 million Japanese visitors: he had his staff risk their careers to set up schemes to sell a specially struck British medallion, as well as ice-cream. With the huge funds generated, the entertainment could be financed, and the aghast Treasury in London told only afterwards. It did not affect his well deserved appointment as KBE in 1969.

Amid the wreckage of Tokyo in 1946 Figgess met his future wife

Alette Idenburg, who had just left the liberated Dutch East Indies. They married in The Hague in 1948.

It was with her, in small-scale collecting at Tokyo junk shops, that Figgess developed the taste in oriental art that was to blossom in his later years. He became a self-taught scholar, particularly of early Chinese lacquerware that have survived (if not in China) so significantly in Japan since 1600. He delighted in ceramics, too. In 1960 he co-authored with Fujio Koyama *Ten Thousand Years of Oriental Ceramics* and in 1973 *The Heritage of Japanese Ceramics*. Although he also contributed to specialist journals it is the one regret of his friends that he was too busy with living to write his memoirs.

In 1972 he entered the world of international art dealing with Christie's. The firm had recruited him for his extraordinary Japanese contacts but Figgess also brought to the work his enthusiasm for the hunt for sales. In one of his more extraordinary scoops, he was at one of Britain's grander country homes inspecting what the owners thought was saleable. Figgess, not particularly impressed with what he was shown, visited the bathroom and came across a piece that seemed to be used as an umbrella stand. He came down barely able to contain his excitement: it was, he announced to the startled owners, a very rare 14th-century cold-glazed copper red piece of early Chinese porcelain. At Christie's it went for a record price of 100,000 guineas.

Figgess was respected in a wide circle of curators and collectors, in London and the Far East, and was actively engaged right up to his death. But he was particularly distinguished as a member of the expert advisory council to the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art, attached to London University. And he was serving as president of the Oriental Ceramics Society when in 1990 he masterminded the *Porcelain for Palaces* exhibition at the British Museum — typically he had been invaluable in securing sponsorship by the Fujitsu company.

He is survived by his wife Alette, and two daughters.

## WILLIAM HILTON

William Hilton, Head of Astronautics at Hawker Siddeley Aviation, 1959-62, died on March 6 aged 84. He was born on June 10, 1912.

A PIONEER among British aerospace engineers, Bill Hilton was the first to use the term "the sound barrier" when explaining his work on supersonic aerodynamics to a journalist in the (aerodynamically speaking) far-off times of the 1930s. This was the time when the biplane still ruled supreme in RAF operational squadrons and Mach 1 was a concept smacking more of the novels of H.G. Wells than of anything likely to be achieved by a flesh-and-blood aviator. Hilton was in the forefront of ramjet and rocket development from the war years until the early 1960s when Britain voluntarily (and needlessly) gave up its commanding position in the field of space technology.

Thereafter, his work was concentrated on the design of satellites to which he made contributions which are still acknowledged today.

A Londoner born and bred, William Frank Hilton went from Finchley County School to the Royal College of Science where he read physics, and then to Imperial College, where, in 1935, he gained his PhD with a thesis on *Photography of Aircraft Shock Waves*.

In 1935 he joined the National Physical Laboratory where he took charge of the 12-inch square high-speed wind tunnel. By 1942 he was running it at supersonic speeds to test guided rockets, aircraft and ramjets. In 1943, using a 20-inch by 8-inch flexible-walled, high-speed wind tunnel he had designed and built himself at NPL, he studied wing body interference at supersonic speeds and in the following year investigated the aerodynamics of wind tunnel models of the Miles E24/43 supersonic aircraft.

An Air Ministry project, to be handled by Miles Aircraft, the E24/43 was the first manned supersonic aircraft project in this country and became known as the Miles M52 Supersonic Aircraft. This was advanced work at a time when the fastest British military aircraft in squadron service were still piston engined and were capable of little more than 400mph.

In the event, though no complete aircraft was ever built, Miles constructed a full-scale mock-up of the fuselage. A flying model was also built, a rocket-powered example being air-launched from a de Havilland Mosquito. But the Government subsequently decided that Britain would not build a manned supersonic aircraft, and terminated the M52 project. It was only after the Americans had broken the sound barrier through Chuck Yeager and the air-launched, rocket-powered Bell X-1 that the British supersonic aircraft programme was pursued afresh.

Other wartime work Hilton did at the National Physical Laboratory involved the development of the "bouncing bomb" used by the Dambusters' squadron against the Ruhr dams. He also advised on the Mulberry Harbour, the great artificial ports which were constructed from old ships, steel girders and masses of concrete, to receive the Allied invasion forces and supplies into the Normandy beachhead after D-Day.

After the war Hilton's advanced research on ramjets led to his secondment in 1946 to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. At the university's applied physics laboratory he was responsible for wind tunnel work on the Bumble Bee ramjet project. In 1954 he published *High Speed Aerodynamics*, which became a

standard reference work on the subject.

From 1950 onwards, his work was on rockets and guided weapons. Joining Armstrong Whitworth, he was the chief aerodynamicist on the Sea Slug ship-to-air missile project — the Navy's first — for which he built a variable wind density tunnel.

In 1959 he was appointed head of astronautics at Hawker Siddeley Aviation's advanced projects group. There, his 12-man team made the first studies to be undertaken in this country of communications satellites, focusing on a system of low elliptical orbit satellites to maximise payload. Seeing the economic advantage, he proposed the use of the 63 degree inclined elliptical orbit for communications satellites in the northern hemisphere. This was recognised by scientists in the Soviet space programme and the Molniya satellites use this orbit.

In 1961 joint proposals for a communications satellite programme were put to the British Government by Hawker Siddeley and the French aerospace company Sereb, but they were not looked on with favour. Through its rejection of this opportunity to enter the multi-million dollar communications satellite industry, and its failure to capitalise on the highly-effective British rocket technology exemplified by the Blue Streak and Black Knight rockets, the Government turned its back on space — and



squandered a huge investment. Hawker Siddeley, recognising the Government's lack of interest in its space projects, closed down its aerodynamics section in 1962. Hilton and his valuable team of specialists were made redundant.

In 1963 Hilton became secretary of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and helped to found the Academy of Astronautics. In 1967 he served as assistant to the technical director of the British Aircraft Corporation. As such, he went to the United States as senior British representative on the team at Hughes Aircraft which designed the Intelsat 4 communications satellite.

One of his interests was the search for the existence of other life forms in the cosmos and he was associated with the IAF study group connected with this. He attended every meeting of the group, in whatever part of the world they were held, and only last year gave a paper at its congress in Beijing.

Hilton will be remembered as an inspirational leader in his field. The aerodynamic configurations of the re-entry vehicles he proposed in 1960 are very similar to those in use today. He continued to produce studies on space flight. Bill Hilton enjoyed a wide range of hobbies ranging from ice-skating, ballroom dancing and skiing to playing the ukulele and collecting stamps. He is survived by his wife Joan, and by a son and two daughters.

## TONY ZALE

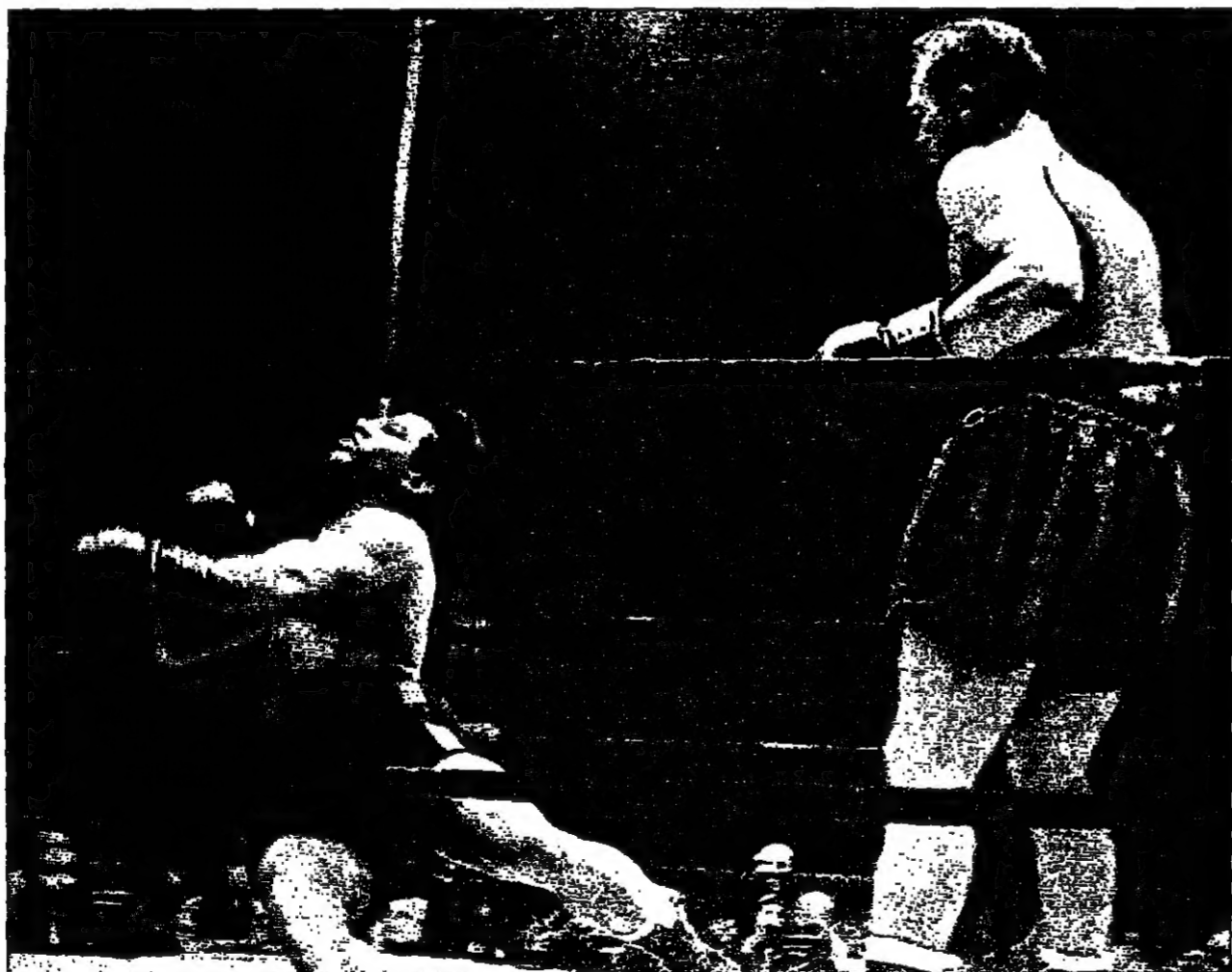
Tony Zale, world middleweight boxing champion, 1940-43, died in Portage, Indiana, on March 20 aged 83. He was born on May 29, 1913.

WHENEVER Tony Zale and his great competitor, Rocky Graziano, stepped through the ropes for a night's fist business, the result was sure to be one of those "slugfests" so beloved of American fight fans. The pair fought three torrid world championship battles in as many years — 1946, 1947 and 1948 — none of which required reference to the score card to adjudicate the result. All three are regarded as being classics of sheer ferocity in an era rich with middleweights — a division which has always provided the most exciting conjunction of speed, skill and punching power.

Though he was given a four-year "rest" from the ring while he served in the US Navy during the Second World War, nothing was ever made easy for Zale. He fought his way from an Indiana steelmill to a world title against some of the best men to have graced the ring at the weight, and defended it against a succession of tough fighters who were hungry to tear the world crown from his head.

Compared with today's carefully managed world championship boxing scene, in which fighters and their managers wait cautiously around each other to secure the most lucrative of the pickings from the four or more titles which exist at each weight, the workrate of men like Zale seems almost suicidal. On his way to the title, nine or ten bouts a year against top opposition were meat and drink to him. Even after he had become established as champion he was fighting half a dozen times a year.

Of his three title fights



Down and out: Rocky Graziano heads for the canvas in the final moments of his third and last title fight with Zale

against Graziano he won the first and the last. It was only after that — by then in his 35th year — that he finally surrendered his world title to the up-and-coming French-Algerian Marcel Cerdan.

He was born Anton Florian Zaleski, of Polish immigrant stock, in the steel town of Gary, Indiana, where he began his working life in a rolling mill. It was his background, combined with his awesome ability to soak up punishment as well as dish it

out, that earned for him his sobriquet "Man of Steel" when he took up boxing.

As a boy he fought as an amateur, winning the Golden Gloves lightweight championship of his native state in 1931. Turning professional in 1934 he embarked on what was in those days the very hard road that had to be travelled before a boxer put himself into a position as a contender for championship honours. In his first year as a pro he fought an astonishing 21 contests, losing

five but establishing a reputation for being a fighter who "when he hits them, they stay hit".

The pay for such an apprenticeship was derisory and for one entire year, 1936, he had to return to the steelmill in Gary, Indiana, to earn a realistic living. But he was back in the ring the following year, punching all contenders out of the way, and early in 1940 he was matched with the National Boxing Association middleweight champion, Al

Hostak. Winning on points in ten rounds, he was rematched with Hostak later in the year, this time in a title fight. He knocked out Hostak in 13 rounds, but full recognition for the undisputed world title had to wait until the following year when he beat the New York State Athletic Commission's champion, Georgie Abrams.

Soon after that, he joined the US Navy and it was an even more daunting boxing ethos he returned to when he finally

cast off his uniform in 1946. By this time the menacing figure of Rocky Graziano, a street tearaway and criminal whose career had not been interrupted by the war, was astride the middleweight division.

The ring-rusty Zale had a number of warm-up fights before tackling Graziano at the Yankee Stadium, New York, on September 27, 1946. Zale won this, the first of three ferocious encounters, knocking his man out with a left hook to the jaw in the sixth, although he had himself been on the floor earlier in the bout. On their meeting again, in Chicago on July 16, 1947, this verdict was reversed, Graziano, seemingly on the verge of defeat, suddenly producing a vicious counter-attack to knock Zale out in the sixth and take his crown.

Public opinion, which still counted for something, however little, in those days, demanded a decider, and a third battle took place in Newark, New Jersey, on June 10, 1948. In a short but explosive contest in which the two men stood toe-to-toe raining blows on each other, Zale finally knocked out Graziano in the third, to regain his title.

The end of his career was not far away. Three months later he defended again, against the European champion Marcel Cerdan in Jersey City. His gruelling career had taken its toll, and after 12 relentless rounds he was finally knocked out. Thankfully, he had the sense to retire at that point, avoiding that awful twilight of decline which is the fate of so many fighters who do not, or cannot, quit.

In retirement he continued as a boxing coach for organisations such as the Catholic Youth Organisation in Chicago. His wife Philomena predeceased him, and he is survived by two daughters.

## Church news

Recent appointments include:  
The Rev Garth Barber, priest-in-charge, All Hallows, Twickenham and Chaplain, Richmond upon Thames College (London), to be Chaplain to the University of East Anglia (Norwich).  
The Rev Timothy Coleman, curate-in-charge, St Peter and St Paul, Hastings, and St John the Evangelist, Hellingdon (Chichester), to be Vicar, St Peter, Aldborough Hatch (Chelmsford).  
The Rev David Court, curate, Kinson (Salisbury), to be Priest-in-charge, Aile Cross, Norwich.  
The Rev Peter Edwards, Vicar, Christ the King, Salford, to be Rector, St Mary, Newington (Southwark).  
The Rev Alan Fitch, CA, diocesan community and race relations adviser and curate (NSM), Holy Trinity, Longleaves (Gloucester), to be Vicar, All Saints and St Thomas's, Douglas (Sodor & Man).  
The Rev Simon Foster, curate, Consett, to be Priest-in-charge, St Hilda and St Columba, Darlington (Durham).

The Rev Clive French, Chaplain, and Director of Ordinands, Royal Navy, to be Rector, St Dunstan, Chesham (Southwark).  
The Rev Charles Hall, Vicar, Stapleford, and Rural Dean of Beeston (Southwell), to be Team Rector, Theford Team Ministry (Norwich).  
The Rev Duncan Harris, recently with Missions to Seamen, Cyprus, to be Port Chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Hull (York).  
The Rev David Hart, Chaplain, Loughborough University, to be Chaplain, Whitefields College (Southwark).  
The Rev Brian Hurst, Vicar, Holy Spirit, Denton, to be also acting Rural Dean of Newcastle West.  
The Rev Nigel Lacey, curate, Widenhall Team Ministry (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich), to be Assistant Priest, St Stephen and St Wulstan, Selly Park (Birmingham).  
The Rev Jonathan Lawson, curate, Usworth Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar, Usworth Team Ministry, St Hilda and St Columba, Darlington (Durham).

The Rev Roy McCullough, Vicar, St Matthew with Holy Trinity, Burnley, who is to be appointed Vicar, Walsdale Dale and Salmsbury, to be also an honorary canon of Blackburn Cathedral.  
The Rev Mark Norris, curate, St Barnabas, Rye, to be Curate, St Helen, St Helen's (Liverpool).  
The Rev Christopher Pearson, curate, St Peter, Streatham, to be Vicar, St Agnes, Kensington Park (Southwark).  
The Rev Paul Rayner, Rector, St Andrew, with St Peter, South Shoebury, who is Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Loughton (Chelmsford).  
The Rev Adrian Robbins-Cole, curate, St Stephen South, Dulwich, to be Vicar, Holy Cross, Maresfield Park (Southwark).  
The Rev Nigel Salter, Vicar, Highways Heath (Birmingham), to be Assistant Chaplain, Greenwald, Healthcare NHS Trust (Southwark).  
The Rev Nigel Stone, Vicar, St Paul, Bristol, to be Kingston and Mission Team Member and Diocesan Adult Education and Training Officer (Southwark).

The Rev Mark Tanner, Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Southwell, to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Southwell, and discontinue as part-time Research officer to the Bishop of Southwell.  
The Rev Rebecca Watts, Chaplain, Wadhams College, Oxford, and curate, Oxford, St Mary the Virgin (Oxford), to continue as Chaplain of Wadhams College only.  
The Rev Dr Samuel Wells, curate, Cherry Hinton with Teverton (Ely), to be Priest-in-charge, St Elizabeth, Earham (Norwich).  
Canon Anthony Wilds, Vicar, St Mary, Andover with Frinton (Worcester), to be Team Rector, Southall Team Ministry (St Albans) (Birmingham).  
The Rev Martin Lloyd Williams, curate, Bath Walk, to be Rector, St Michael with St Paul, Bath.  
Withdrawal of acceptance:  
The Rev Norman Swinson, Rector, Jarrow Grange (Durham), has withdrawn for health reasons, his acceptance of the post of Priest-in-charge, plurality of Cockfield and Lynceck, same diocese.

## THE OVERLAND MAIL.

## DEFEAT OF THE SIKHS.

## BY EXTRAORDINARY EXPRESS

We delayed publication to the latest possible hour at the despatch of last steamer, in expectation of receiving full and authentic tidings of a reverse said to have occurred near Ludianah, but obtained none. Sir Harry Smith's division proceeded according to orders about the 19th, to march in the direction of Ludianah to reinforce the division under Colonel Gudgey, considered too weak to be opposed to the formidable body of Sikhs then entrenched in the neighbourhood.

The force in all amounted to nearly 8,000 men. On the 20th an express arrived, intimating that the Ludianah regiments were hemmed in... The greater portion of the troops were encamped between Buddawal and Ludianah — the 36th Native Infantry and Nusseer's battalion being alone near the town. The Sikhs now apprehending an attack, in turn abandoned Buddawal, and withdrew to a more advantageous position. Colonel Wheeler's brigade joined on the 25th, and a few days being allowed for rest and arrangements, it was resolved that an attack by the united force should be made on the 28th.

## ON THIS DAY

March 24, 1846

The first Sikh War (1845-46) ended with a treaty at Lahore on March 9. The action described here took place in February. The second war (1848-49) saw the defeat of the Sikhs and the annexation of the Punjab.

The Sikh force had originally consisted of 20,000 men with 56 guns: on the 26th they were reinforced by the addition of 12 guns and 4,000 men — all regular well-disciplined troops. The strength of their position was the village of Ullawal.

On the 28th the united divisions, consisting of 12,000 men and 32 guns, marched at daybreak from Buddawal in the direction of the enemy's camp. At the village of Chuk we first got sight of the enemy. They advanced some distance beyond their entrenchments towards our division, and commenced a heavy cannonade on our troops. The village of Aleeval, the important point, was now

stormed by our troops. The whole line now pressed on and stormed the batteries everywhere, carrying the guns at the bayonet's point.

Charge after charge of our Cavalry broke and cut up the enemy as they endeavoured to rally. The 16th Lancers and 3d Cavalry suffered most severely: of the former 110 were killed or wounded in charging the enemy's guns, and in striving, and that most successfully, to break a square of a Khalsa regiment, which was quickly dispersed or cut to pieces. In this latter service 200 of the Irregular Horse, under Captain Hill, and 700 of the Shekawattie Brigade, eminently distinguished themselves.

The Sikhs fought gallantly, and their guns were excellently served; they opened at 10, and were not silenced till 1 o'clock — many of the artillerymen remaining till bayoneted at their posts. By noon the enemy were broken: they were driven by repeated charges of cavalry and infantry into, and across, the river. Many were drowned in attempting to escape.

Nothing could exceed the gallantry of the troops: the artillery was precise, steady, and destructive; the cavalry charges brilliant; and the infantry as determined, steady, and orderly, as if a ball-practice parade, and not a pitched battle, had been in hand...

